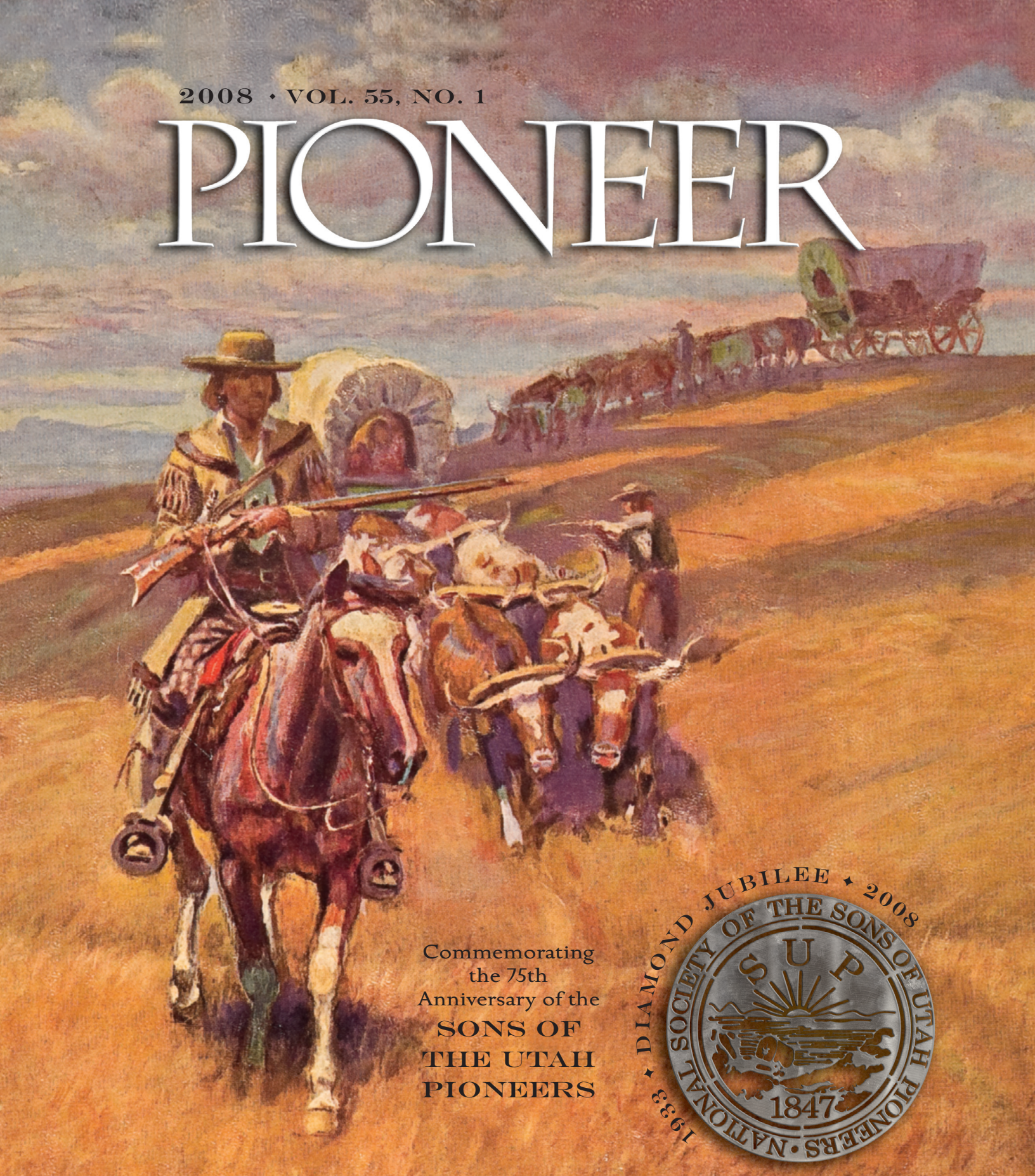
2008 • VOL. 55, NO. 1

PIONEER



Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the **SONS OF THE UTAH PIONEERS**

DIAMOND JUBILEE • 1933 • 2008 • NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF UTAH PIONEERS • S U P • 1847

Published by the Sons of Utah Pioneers

Pioneering yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

2008 • Vol. 55, No. 1

PIONEER

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers is to preserve the memory and heritage of the early pioneers of the Utah Territory. We honor the pioneers for their faith in God, devotion to family, loyalty to church and country, hard work and service to others, courage in adversity, personal integrity, and unyielding determination.

The society also honors present-day pioneers worldwide in many walks of life who exemplify these same qualities of character. It is further intended to teach these same qualities to the youth who will be tomorrow's pioneers.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Booth Maycock

Light the candles! Blow the horns! The year 2008 marks the 75th birthday of this honored organization. As you read the articles in this issue of *Pioneer* magazine you will revisit, either vicariously or through personal memories, the great events that mark the history of our National Society. Since its inception in March of 1933, thousands of dedicated, hard-working members have strived to perpetuate and honor the legacy of the pioneers. This helps us "feel" the pioneers' faith and devotion that made it possible for them to accomplish unbelievable tasks or give their lives in the attempt. They never questioned whether it was worth it.

The pioneers have been honored by SUP establishing hundreds of monuments to their memory and efforts, conducting treks to historical sites, helping establish an annual celebration on the 24th of July in their honor, and dedicating many of our chapter and national meeting programs to their history. Our library at National Headquarters is constantly expanding its large collection of pioneer histories. On the walls at our headquarters are large bronze plaques honoring the names of those pioneers whose sponsors have submitted their stories. We encourage each of you to help expand this collection.

In addition to honoring the pioneers of the past, we regularly honor present pioneers as we recognize those who are pioneering in different areas of our present society, industry, or commerce.

We also honor those who will be tomorrow's pioneers by sponsoring theme contests in grade schools and high schools for students who write about pioneer ancestors.

The organization continues to award hundreds of scholarships to students who have proven their ability to overcome significant obstacles in order to further their education at a college or university of their choice. These funds have been raised through chapter activities and private donations. These are just a few of our efforts to perpetuate the great pioneer legacy.

And now, in 2008, it is my great privilege to follow in the footsteps of the many dedicated leaders of this Society. I feel humbled, but grateful, to serve with you in this wonderful organization.

The "Diamond Jubilee Fund" has been initiated to raise $75,000 from members, chapters, and private donors. These funds will provide for the much-needed improvements in our Headquarters Building and establish the monument "Faces West" of the Prophet Joseph Smith and Brigham Young to be put in "This Is the Place Heritage Park."

SUP has a wonderful cadre of dedicated leaders to assist us this year, three members of the Executive Committee, seven Directors, sixteen Area Vice-Presidents, and Headquarters staff and librarians. We hope you will feel free and comfortable to call upon any of these at any time. You can count on the Area Vice-Presidents' being in regular contact with their chapters. As your National President, I plan to visit as many chapters as possible during the year.

I feel confident that in honor of our 75th birthday you will do everything possible to help accomplish our common goals. We have the example of our pioneers to show us how.

As SUP President, I express our grief at the passing of LDS President Gordon B. Hinckley and extend our gratitude for his continual support of SUP over the years. We will sorely miss him.

—Booth Maycock

Our next issue of the Pioneer *magazine, scheduled for this spring, will feature the various ethnic groups of pioneers that came and settled in Utah and the West. This promises to be an interesting issue.*

KEEPING the LEGACY ALIVE

The Sons of Utah Pioneers committment to honoring our pioneer heritage

by Angus Belliston, 1994 SUP President

What's really so special about the pioneers? Why do we talk about them so much? Why do we find it so pleasing if we happen to have a pioneer heritage? Is their story really worth all the attention it receives, all the monuments we raise, all the celebrations in their honor? What is so special about these folks who (after all) were just ordinary human beings like the rest of us?

Early Mormon Pioneers

There were countless pioneers in the Territory of Deseret—their significance to us isn't a question of scarcity. The classic definition of a "pioneer" uses May 10, 1869, when the Golden Spike was driven at Promontory Point, as the cutoff date to qualify as a pioneer. Perhaps 60 to 80,000 came to the valley, or were born here, before the railroad came. Some of these people were indeed great by any standard. Some were the leaders whose stories have been told over and over. But most were simply the ordinary followers of these leaders, whose stories may never be told and who will be remembered only by some of their grateful posterity as they gather in family reunions. But these ordinary folks were great men and women too who persevered through uncommon hardships because they had faith in their God, in their prophets, and in their cause.

Commissioned by the Sons of Utah Pioneers, Clark Kelley Price's painting "Dan Jones Awakens Wales" now graces the main lobby of the MTC, where it inspires new missionaries to spread their message with the courage and enthusiasm of Dan Jones.

LIVRE
MORMON

Perhaps we could illustrate with an example from many special events in the history of the Sons of Utah Pioneers organization why these noble pathfinders of the American West, whether famous or common folk, are worth our remembrance, even our veneration—and why we should be striving to replicate in our own lives their uncommon virtues.

Dan Jones, the Welshman

Captain Dan Jones is quite famous now. But until recently, few people knew much about him, except that he was the object of the last recorded prophecy of Joseph Smith, the night before the Martyrdom, and the author of the first account of the Martyrdom. As Jones lay that night with others on the floor of the Carthage Jail, the Prophet asked him if he were afraid to die. The answer: "Has that time come, think you? Engaged in such a cause, I do not think that death would have many terrors." To this, Joseph replied, "You will yet see Wales, and fulfill the mission appointed you before you die." (*History of the Church*, 4:60.) The next day, Jones left the jail and miraculously escaped several mobbers. Within a few months he was on his way to his native Wales to preach and publish. He served two lengthy missions there and became one of the most prolific missionaries in LDS church history. Over ten thousand Welsh Saints followed Dan Jones and his fellow laborers back to Zion, bringing with them their superb musical talents and voices, their skills in mining, stone masonry, and farming, and their dauntless faith in the restored gospel of Jesus Christ.

Welsh Festival

In 1993 a throng of Welsh descendants gathered at the invitation of the SUP in the BYU Marriott Center to celebrate the life of Dan Jones and the history of their own pioneer ancestors, who bore names like Parry, Thomas, Morgan, Price, Evans, and Jones. During the day the crowds had enjoyed a tour of Welsh homes in Utah Valley and an Eisteddfod program of poetry and music. SUP and LDS church leaders gathered in the Missionary Training Center to present to the First Presidency a handsome new painting of the great missionary: "Dan Jones Awakens Wales." This painting now graces the main lobby of the MTC, where it inspires new missionaries to spread their message with the courage and enthusiasm of Dan Jones.

The evening service in the Marriott Center featured a special video documentary of Wales, narrated on site by Elder Jeffery Holland. The Tabernacle Choir sang many numbers, some in the Welsh language. Lord Ellis Thomas, the Welsh member of the British House of Lords (accompanied by Her Majesty's Consul General for Western America), addressed the congregation. Finally, First Counselor in the Presidency, Gordon B. Hinckley, provided a stirring memoir about Captain/Elder Dan Jones.

Another tribute to this early pioneer was the theme of President Hinckley's next general conference address. Dan Jones had come out of obscurity! Surely his memory, and the memory of all such stalwarts, both of the known and the unknown pioneers, deserves our faithful remembrance!

What Worth, Their Legacy?

The Sons of Utah Pioneers has been pleased to recognize numerous other great personalities, significant events, and many places with monuments and markers. All these serve as enduring reminders of our pioneer legacy. But of what worth is the legacy, if it endures only in our memories? Of much greater lasting significance is the legacy that lives in the lives of those who follow after.

Now let us repeat the questions we began with: "What's really so special about the pioneers? Is their story really worth all the attention it receives?"

All of us know the pioneers were indeed very special in many ways. And their stories are really worth all the attention they receive, and more. So may we remind ourselves often by reading and re-reading; may we teach our children and grandchildren by telling and re-telling stories about these wonderful, faithful people who " . . . have given [you] a land for which [ye] did not labour, and cities which [ye] built not, and [ye] dwell in them; [and] the vineyards and oliveyards which [ye] planted not and [of which ye] do eat." (Joshua 24:13)

Visuals: Photos © from the Utah State Historical Society, used by permission, all rights reserved: George Albert Smith #13582 (5); Pioneer Village #38 (12–13); aerial view of Pioneer Village #6 (16); Praying Oxen #22–1 (17); Store and Village Barber Shop #18 (17); Shop Keeper #54 (18); Pioneer Train #2 (23). Mormon Battalion art by George M. Ottinger (8), © Intellectual Reserve, Inc. Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, Arizona, iStockphoto #1578807 (37). Epperson bust (6) and other photos part of SUP Collection unless otherwise noted.

Guardians of Pioneer Heritage

THE HISTORY OF THE SONS OF UTAH PIONEERS

by Orson D. Wright, 1972 SUP President

On May 10, 1869, the Union Pacific Railroad met the Southern Pacific Railroad and the Golden Spike was driven, marking the completion of the two railroads. This union gave Utah Territory stability and strength. The establishment of the railroad, heralding progress and development, became an official cut-off date between the past and the new West. It has become tradition to refer to those arriving before the completion of the railroad as "the pioneers."

First Seeds Planted

Efforts were made by 1897 to recognize those pioneers arriving in the territory before May 10, 1869, by forming commemorative organizations. In 1897 a unified organization formed that was called "The Sons and Daughters of Utah Pioneers." Elder George Albert Smith and Susa Young Gates appear to have been the principal moving individuals of the early organization.

The first public gathering of the Sons and Daughters of Utah Pioneers was held in Utah County at Springville, with President Joseph F. Smith as the speaker.

Andrew Jenson's *Church Chronology* of July 20, 1907, records, "an organization known as 'Sons and Daughters of Utah Pioneers' was effected in Salt Lake City, with Reed Smoot as president."

Right: Elder George Albert Smith

THE SUP LUNCHEON CLUB: *On February 29, 1936, newly elected officers of the Salt Lake County organization sponsored a Centennial Banquet at the Hotel Utah. For the moment it gave new life to the SUP. About 350 enthusiastic persons attended, including prominent businessmen and Church leaders from all over the state. President Heber J. Grant was the principal speaker of the evening. Following this banquet it was proposed that a weekly luncheon club be held. March 10, 1936, was set for the Charter Luncheon at the Lion House Social Center. The records show that 78 attended of whom 57 remained for a photograph taken by the* Salt Lake Tribune *photographer.*

This early organization was apparently short lived as Parley P. Jensen, a former secretary of Senator Smoot and later a lawyer in Salt Lake City, made an effort to reorganize the movement in 1910.

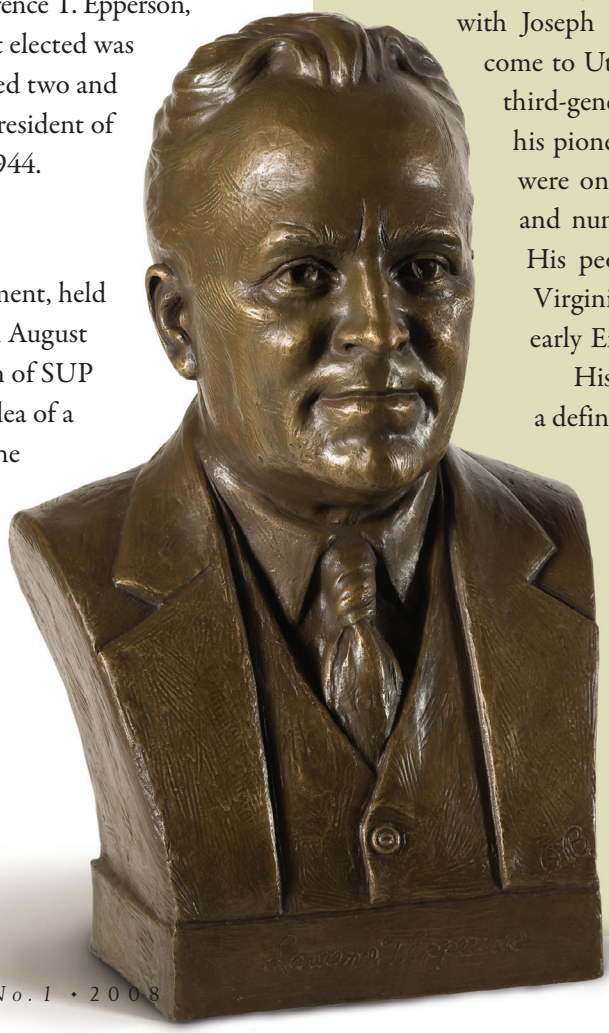
Walter G. Taylor and David Loveless are credited with organizing the George Albert Smith Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers in Provo, Utah, in 1928, which helped to provide the basis for the organization of the present-day "National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers. The George Albert Smith Chapter, in the early 1930s, cooperated with the Daughter of Utah Pioneers in establishing the Provo Pioneer Museum. Support was given by LDS President Heber J. Grant in furthering these and similar cooperative efforts.

Official Formation of the Sons of Utah Pioneers

The official "Sons of Utah Pioneers" was organized March 29, 1933, as a state organization. Ten men began formulating the Constitution and Bylaws, which were published in 1934 (see "Lawrence T. Epperson," right sidebar). The first president elected was Lawrence T. Epperson, who served two and a half years and again served as president of the organization from 1941 to 1944.

Early Years

At the First Annual Encampment, held at Aspen Grove, Prove, on August 10–11, 1935, under the direction of SUP President Nephi L. Morris, the idea of a "Twelve-Year Plan" of retracing the original pioneer trek from Nauvoo to Salt Lake at the 1947 Centennial was presented (see "The Pioneer Trek: Reenactment of 1947," pages 19–21, this issue). The idea took hold and expanded and served as a common goal to strengthen the organization during the formative years.



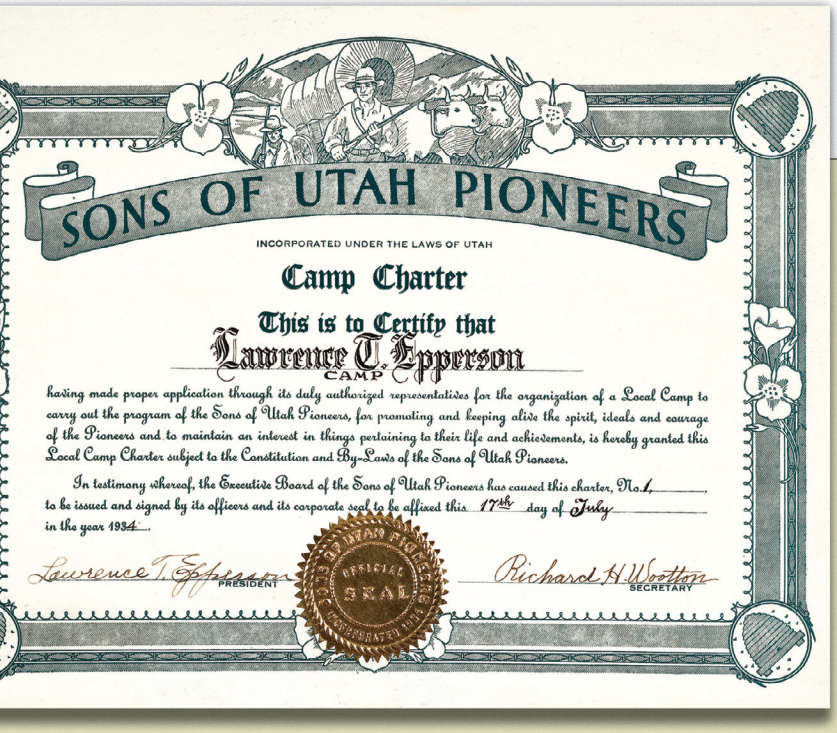
Founder of the Sons of Utah Pioneers:

Lawrence T. Epperson

by Richard Horsley

We, of the Sons of the Utah Pioneers, should have recognized that his name gives him away. Lawrence—"the laurel crowned one"—and Epperson—"son of a wild boar"— gave him every right to do what he did, establish a heritage organization that wants to crown every descendant of Utah pioneers as worthy candidates for greatness.

Lawrence was born in Midway, Utah, on September 22, 1884, and grew up in Wasatch County, the home of several of his ancestors—the Tuckers, Robeys, Van Wageners, and Eppersons. Some of his ancestors had gone to Nauvoo and had contact with Joseph and Hyrum Smith. Most had come to Utah by 1853, so Lawrence was a third-generation Mormon, very proud of his pioneer ancestry. The Van Wageners were one of the top 300 most faithful and numerous families in the Church. His people came from Indiana, West Virginia, and New Jersey, and all had early English and Dutch backgrounds. His interest in sports and music had a defining influence in his early college years. He played shortstop on BYU's baseball team and once had the misfortune of being hit with a baseball, which affected his ability to use one eye. He played the drums with the Epperson Band. He was a 1912 graduate of Brigham Young University. He married Mary Loretta Pritchett November 18, 1908,



SONS OF UTAH PIONEERS

INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF UTAH

Camp Charter

This is to Certify that

Lawrence T. Epperson

CAMP

having made proper application through its duly authorized representatives for the organization of a Local Camp to carry out the program of the Sons of Utah Pioneers, for promoting and keeping alive the spirit, ideals and courage of the Pioneers and to maintain an interest in things pertaining to their life and achievements, is hereby granted this Local Camp Charter subject to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Sons of Utah Pioneers.

In testimony whereof, the Executive Board of the Sons of Utah Pioneers has caused this charter, No. 1, to be issued and signed by its officers and its corporate seal to be affixed this 17th day of July in the year 1934.

Lawrence T. Epperson PRESIDENT

OFFICIAL SEAL

Richard H. Wootton SECRETARY

in the Salt Lake Temple and became a father to five boys and four girls. One boy and one girl died as infants.

Lawrence was very active in the Democratic Party and through various connections he worked for the State of Utah in several positions.

In a publication entitled "Brief History of the National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers," historian Gustave O. Larsen wrote: "Papers left by the late Lawrence T. Epperson tell of an organization meeting held in the office of Heber Jex with Epperson presiding. In this and subsequent meetings a constitution and by-laws were formulated and on March 29, 1933, the Sons of Utah Pioneers were incorporated as a state society with the following ten incorporators: Lawrence T. Epperson, Amos Epperson, Emery S. Epperson, Alvin Keddington, William L. Van Wagonen, Vaughn Elmo Epperson, Lawrence Leon Epperson, Elbert Pritchett Epperson, Gerald Jean Epperson, John Frank Prichett. . . .

"At a subsequent meeting . . . permanent offices were elected, including: Lawrence T. Epperson, President; Dr. George A. Wilson, 1st Vice President; Herbert Auerbach, 2nd Vice President; Richard Wooten, Secretary; Heber C. Jex, Treasurer; Seth Pixton, Corresponding Secretary.

"An Executive Board consisted of Nephi L. Morris, George A. Goates, LaDru Jensen and A. Lund."

Epperson worked closely with bishops in Salt Lake City to have "camps" (chapters) in their local ward boundaries. Many of the early camps bore the names of prominent pioneers who had settled the areas in Salt Lake City where the camp was located: John Haslam, Orson Pratt, John Sharp, John Smith, Wilford Woodruff, Daniel H. Wills, Daniel Pettigrew, Jacob Weiler, James Brown, Jonathan Browning, David McKay, George Albert Smith, Brigham Young. Not all early camps were in Salt Lake City, but were also in Utah County (Provo, Lehi, and Springville) and Golden Spike in Box Elder County.

The Great Depression took a heavy toll and the early 3000 membership has never been equaled. To join, one had only to pay $1—then after a few years after the Depression the dues went to $5. Epperson stepped in and with the help of Harold Jenson (son of the Church Historian Andrew Jenson) and Richard R. Lyman held the organization together during the World War II years.

It is to Lawrence Epperson's credit that the Sons of Utah Pioneers holds annual conventions (or, in earlier times, encampments). He encouraged treks and celebrations at appropriate times of the year, including pioneer parades. Because of the love Epperson had of playing the drums, the Mormon Battalion took on some importance for him. Also, to Lawrence must go the credit for the Pioneer Village.

Even after turning over the reins of the SUP to Harold Jenson in 1945 he kept abreast of what was happening. One person said "he was behind everything significant that was going on."

Lawrence and Loretta served a mission in the New England states. His whole life was given to serving others. Lawrence Epperson died in Salt Lake City on July 8, 1959. He earned the highest accolades of the Sons of Utah Pioneers, the organization for which he was greatly responsible.

What a noble son of Utah pioneers he was! The Sons of Utah Pioneers are indebted to him for the way he conducted his life. Truly he lived up to his name. With the energy and spirit of a wild boar he had the drive to see the organization of the Sons of Utah Pioneers succeed.

Epperson, 1944 SUP President

During this time, dues were set at $1.00 in an effort to make membership available to all. President George Albert Smith, then an apostle of the LDS church, served on the Board of Directors. A familiar method to unite with prospective members was known as "Bread and Milk Suppers," a dinner consisting of bread, milk, and fresh vegetables.

In 1937, during the term of President Richard H. Wooten, Judge George A. Goates started a publication called the *SUP News* which eventually evolved into the present-day *Pioneer* magazine, the official publication of the Sons of Utah Pioneers.

The organization provided service and reminders of the important history of the pioneers. A pioneer museum opened at Sowette Park in Provo. In 1938 the SUP president was Herbert S. Auerbach. Although not a Mormon, he gave valuable support to the Sons of the Utah Pioneers during this period. Auerbach donated an important "Joseph Smith Collection" to the LDS Museum on Temple Square.

Lawrence T. Epperson was again elected president (1941–44) and served as a strong leader and sustaining force for the organization for three more years as the state of Utah supported the war effort.

MORMON BATTALION *1950 Reenactment*

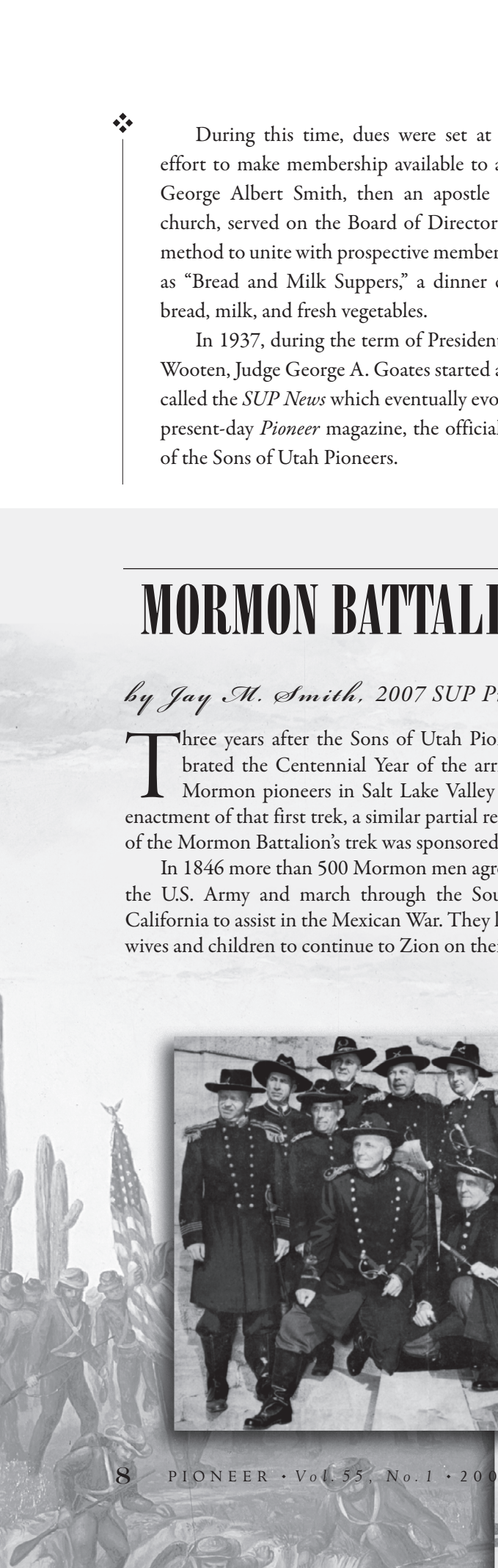
by Jay M. Smith, 2007 SUP President

Three years after the Sons of Utah Pioneers celebrated the Centennial Year of the arrival of the Mormon pioneers in Salt Lake Valley with a reenactment of that first trek, a similar partial reenactment of the Mormon Battalion's trek was sponsored.

In 1846 more than 500 Mormon men agreed to join the U.S. Army and march through the Southwest to California to assist in the Mexican War. They left behind wives and children to continue to Zion on their own and marched over 1,900 miles in 194 days, the longest march in the history of the United States Army.

The Mormon Battalion reenactment in 1950 was headed by SUP President Fred E. H. Curtis, who assumed the role of commanding officer. Nine busloads of SUP members and their wives (300 people) left Salt Lake City on March 13. Five companies were organized, with representatives of the original officers, 14 in each company.

The buses first arrived at the



Post-War Years

After the war the reins of the organization fell on Harold H. Jenson (1945). Under his administration membership grew to about 2000, interest in the Centennial trek was rekindled and the seed for reviving the Mormon Battalion was planted. An emphasis was placed on the search for and publication of pioneer stories.

The Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were submitted and accepted by the Division of Corporations and Commercial Code of Utah, Department of Business Regulation, State of Utah, on July 15, 1946.

SUP President Fred E. H. Curtis (1949–52) led the organization in a simulation of the Mormon Battalion trek from Grand Canyon to San Diego, California, and Fort Moore, Los Angeles, California (see below).

"**Life Memberships**" were formally organized in 1948 with the life membership funds being placed into a trust fund. New chapters were formed: Hyrum, Kanab, Emigration, Pioneer, Parowan, St. George, Riverton, Providence, Bountiful, Huntsville, San Bernardino, and San Diego.

During the 1950s and 60s emphasis was placed on activities that reflected the purposes of SUP. It became a national society in 1953, by action of the Board of

South rim of the Grand Canyon. The next day the members donned their replica military uniforms and left for Mesa, Arizona, where they gave a dress parade. After dinner, a greeting was given by Arizona Governor Dan E. Garvel with a special musical performance. (*Pioneer*, July 1950, Sect. B, 6–7.)

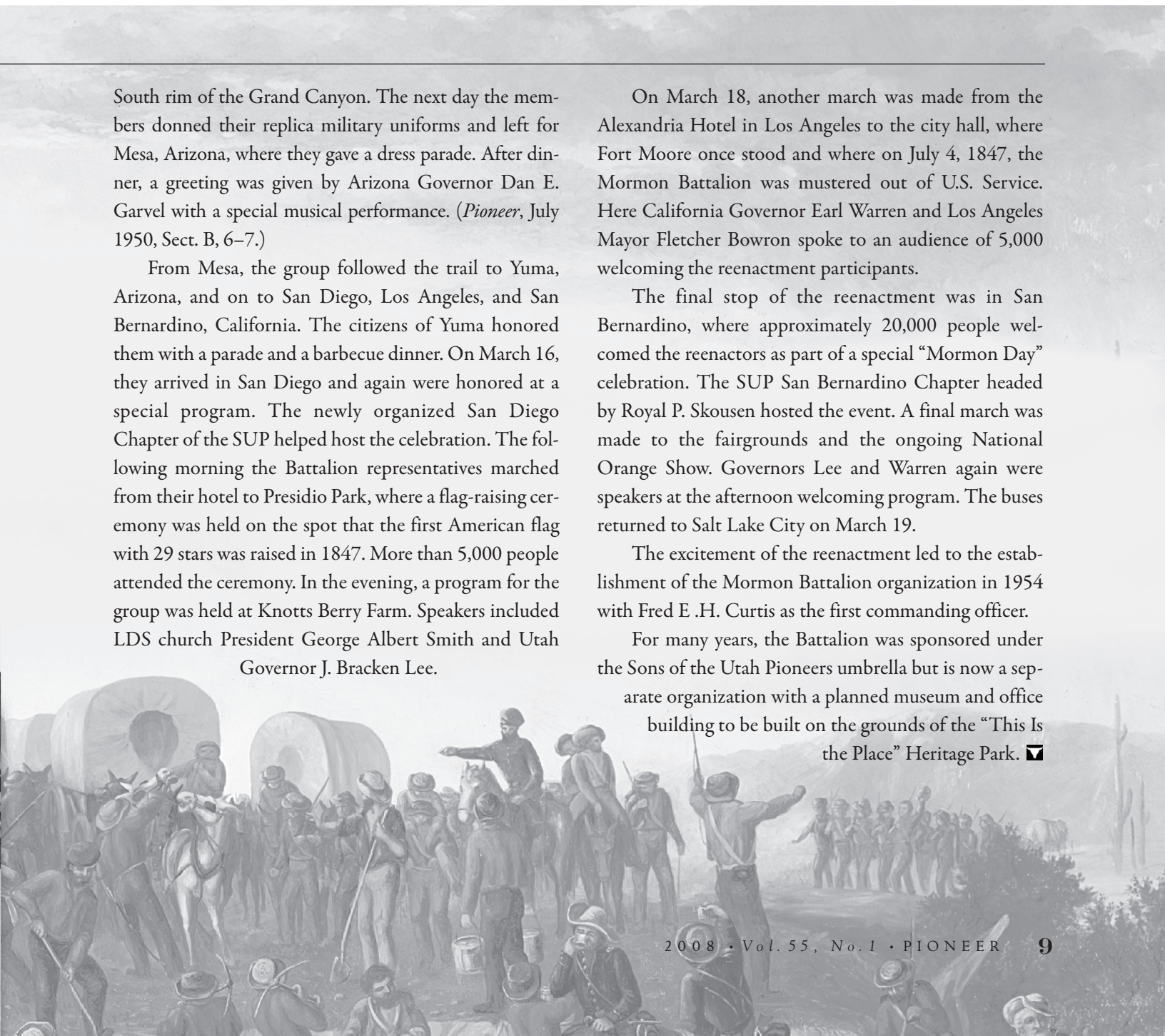
From Mesa, the group followed the trail to Yuma, Arizona, and on to San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino, California. The citizens of Yuma honored them with a parade and a barbecue dinner. On March 16, they arrived in San Diego and again were honored at a special program. The newly organized San Diego Chapter of the SUP helped host the celebration. The following morning the Battalion representatives marched from their hotel to Presidio Park, where a flag-raising ceremony was held on the spot that the first American flag with 29 stars was raised in 1847. More than 5,000 people attended the ceremony. In the evening, a program for the group was held at Knotts Berry Farm. Speakers included LDS church President George Albert Smith and Utah Governor J. Bracken Lee.

On March 18, another march was made from the Alexandria Hotel in Los Angeles to the city hall, where Fort Moore once stood and where on July 4, 1847, the Mormon Battalion was mustered out of U.S. Service. Here California Governor Earl Warren and Los Angeles Mayor Fletcher Bowron spoke to an audience of 5,000 welcoming the reenactment participants.

The final stop of the reenactment was in San Bernardino, where approximately 20,000 people welcomed the reenactors as part of a special "Mormon Day" celebration. The SUP San Bernardino Chapter headed by Royal P. Skousen hosted the event. A final march was made to the fairgrounds and the ongoing National Orange Show. Governors Lee and Warren again were speakers at the afternoon welcoming program. The buses returned to Salt Lake City on March 19.

The excitement of the reenactment led to the establishment of the Mormon Battalion organization in 1954 with Fred E .H. Curtis as the first commanding officer.

For many years, the Battalion was sponsored under the Sons of the Utah Pioneers umbrella but is now a separate organization with a planned museum and office building to be built on the grounds of the "This Is the Place" Heritage Park.



On October 24, 1948, the Sons of Utah Pioneers opened a museum to house a beautiful collection of antique furniture and household equipment owned by Mr. and Mrs. Horace A. Sorensen.

Directors, with the official title "The National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers."

National President Richard A. Lambert (1952–53) represented SUP and the LDS church at the dedication of the Mormon Pioneer Memorial Bridge in Omaha.

During Nicholas G. Morgan's term (1953–54), the National Society wrote a new constitution. Local units were called "chapters." Due to Morgan's energy and financial support, several monuments were placed, including an Abraham Lincoln Statue at New Salem, Illinois.

A New Home

In 1953, Mr. and Mrs. Horace A. Sorensen and family gifted the Pioneer Memorial Museum to the National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers. The National Society now had a name, a new constitution, and a home. The museum expanded and grew into a village (see "Pioneer Village," pages 17–18, this issue). It was deeded to SUP by the Sorensens as long as the SUP was located at the site on Connor Street.

Horace A. Sorensen was elected president in 1954 and served three terms until 1957. Life Memberships increased and an honorary membership was awarded President David O. McKay. A "Know Your Utah Year" was promoted by SUP. During his second term, Sorensen donated nearly 3 acres of land for the expanding Pioneer Village.

Dr. Carl J. Christensen as national president in 1957 saw the number of chapters grow to 37. An administration building for the National Society was constructed at Pioneer Village and workers from East Mill Creek, Holladay, and Sugar House chapters helped construct the building. It continued in use for nearly two decades.

Growth and Success

Activities and accomplishments of the organization in the 1960s included a celebration of the Pony Express Centennial. The Mormon Battalion was honored to represent Utah at a Presidential Inaugural Parade in Washington, D.C. Also, plans were made to erect a special memorial to Lawrence T. Epperson.

The organization grew in influence and achievement as 1962 SUP President Vasco Tanner and others participated in the building and dedication of the Pioneer

Memorial Theater. The old City Hall on Capitol Hill was sponsored by President Tanner and past-President Nicholas G. Morgan.

Leslie Goates became the editor of the *Pioneer* magazine, formerly named the *SUP News*, serving for 10 years. The Battalion also took part in a special parade and commemoration at Sutter Fort in California.

In 1966, the Sons of Utah Pioneer Sunrise Service was held at Lindsay Gardens the morning of July 24th sponsored by the Salt Lake Pioneer Chapter. Elder Gordon B. Hinckley, an Assistant to the Twelve, was the first speaker in a long series of services over the years. The sunrise service continues to this day as one of the special events for the Days of '47 celebration, and is still sponsored by the Salt Lake Pioneer Chapter, and the Mormon Battalion continues to participate in the services.

Ray Knell, president in 1968, undertook the important project of raising a proposed $18,000 for the Mormon Battalion Monument to be placed in the Presidio Park in San Diego, California. In 1969, President Eugene P. Watkins announced that the goal for the San Diego Monument had been oversubscribed and by November, 1969, a sum of $19,250 had been collected from members of the SUP. The Mormon Battalion Monument, honoring the Trek of the

In recognition of significant contribution to the Sons of the Utah Pioneers, the Sugarhouse Chapter expresses thanks and appreciation to

Horace A. Sorensen

February 6, 1899 - May 2, 1977

Horace Sorensen served as National President during consecutive terms from 1954 through 1956. Under his leadership, membership grew from eleven to thirty-five chapters. He also served as President of the Sugarhouse Chapter during 1949 and 1950.

Horace performed a vital role in the construction of the National Headquarters facility, located at the mouth of Parley's Canyon, by providing significant financial assistance. On October 31, 1950, the Sorensen barn located at the family's estate on Connor Street (Salt Lake City, Utah) was remodeled into a small museum dedicated by President George Albert Smith. This expanding collection was later donated to the Sons of the Utah Pioneers on November 6, 1953. The collection is housed at Lagoon (Farmington, Utah) and has grown into more than thirty buildings, homes, shops, etc. The sale of Pioneer Village to Lagoon Corporation provided the initial funds toward construction of the SUP Headquarters.

Horace was very prominent in converting the old penitentiary site into Sugarhouse Park where President Gordon B. Hinckley dedicated the SUP monument which was erected in June, 1988.

Railroad Village, begun by the Sons of Utah Pioneers at Corrine, Utah, to commemorate the Golden Spike 100th Anniversary in 1969, was spearheaded by Horace Sorensen.

The Chapter also extends appreciation to his wife, Ethel Melville Sorensen, and his family, who supported him in these endeavors.

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF UTAH PIONEERS • 1847

Sugarhouse Chapter, 1988

SUP President Horace A. Sorensen with LDS church President David O. McKay, who was honored by National SUP

Mormon Battalion, was dedicated and presented to the City of San Diego November 22, 1969. Hugh B. Brown of the First Presidency of the LDS church gave the dedicatory prayer and Elder Mark E. Peterson of the Twelve Apostles offered the invocation.

Working with Horace Sorensen, SUP helped set up a railroad village and museum at Corrine, Utah, in Box Elder County, to commemorate the joining of the rails as Promontory Point, Utah, in 1869. The commemorative site was complete on the 100th anniversary of the Golden Spike in 1969. This village later, with the railroad engine was purchased and transferred to Heber City, where it became know as the Heber Creeper and Pioneer Railroad Village.

The SUP and Mormon Battalion joined in dedicating the newly rebuilt Pony Express Monument at Faust, Utah.

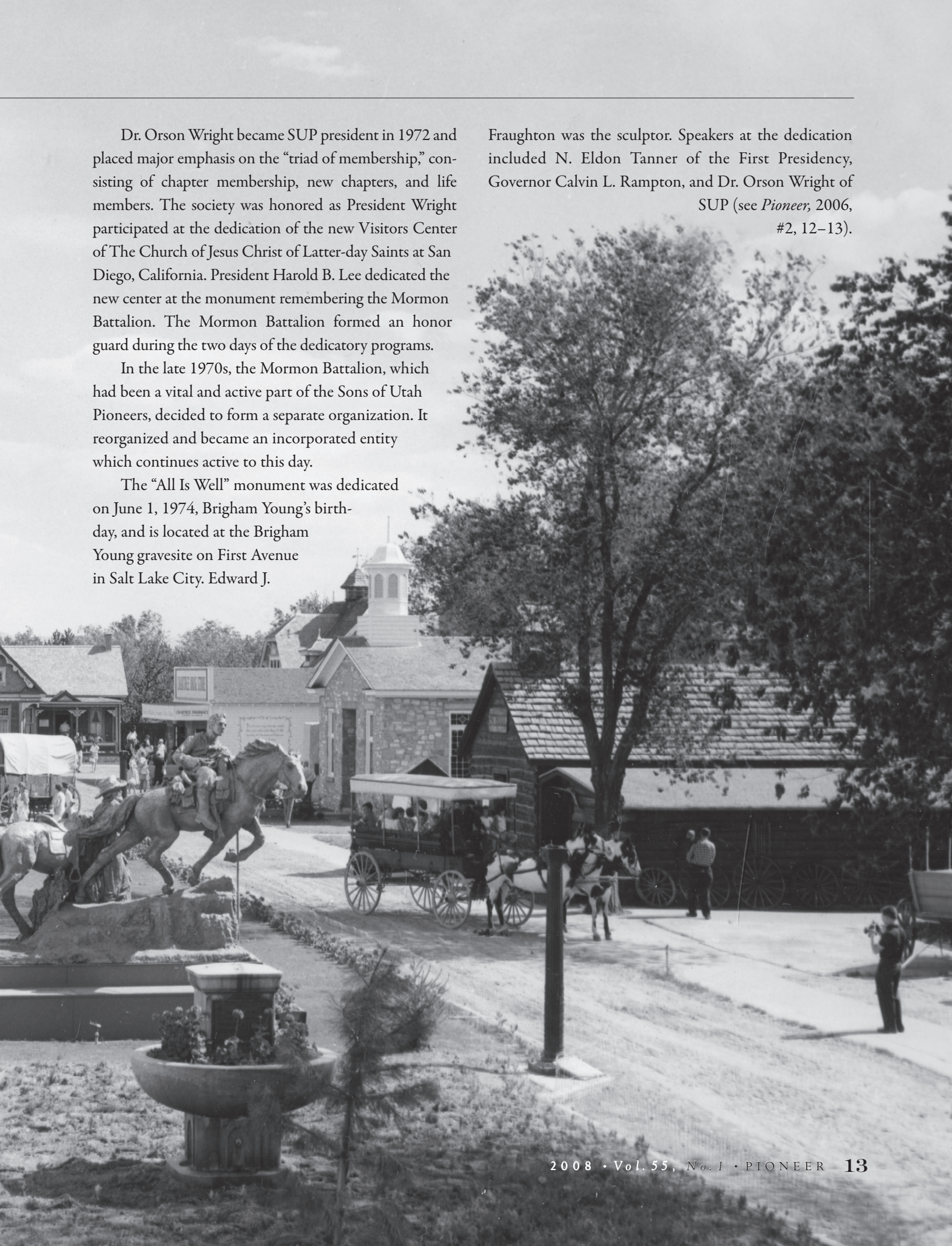
The 1970s began with efforts to strengthen the organization with semiannual training seminars, a manual to bring direction and unity among the chapters and National SUP, and a constitutional change to allow for a new officer in the organization, the president-elect.

Verl G. Dixon, mayor of Provo, and SUP president in 1971–1972 participated in the dedication of the Mormon Worker's Cabin at the California Gold Discovery Site at Coloma, California.

Dr. Orson Wright became SUP president in 1972 and placed major emphasis on the "triad of membership," consisting of chapter membership, new chapters, and life members. The society was honored as President Wright participated at the dedication of the new Visitors Center of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at San Diego, California. President Harold B. Lee dedicated the new center at the monument remembering the Mormon Battalion. The Mormon Battalion formed an honor guard during the two days of the dedicatory programs.

In the late 1970s, the Mormon Battalion, which had been a vital and active part of the Sons of Utah Pioneers, decided to form a separate organization. It reorganized and became an incorporated entity which continues active to this day.

The "All Is Well" monument was dedicated on June 1, 1974, Brigham Young's birthday, and is located at the Brigham Young gravesite on First Avenue in Salt Lake City. Edward J. Fraughton was the sculptor. Speakers at the dedication included N. Eldon Tanner of the First Presidency, Governor Calvin L. Rampton, and Dr. Orson Wright of SUP (see *Pioneer,* 2006, #2, 12–13).



Current Headquarters

Although Pioneer Village had grown in size and interest, it was detached from downtown. Visitors had a difficult time finding its location and it became increasingly inaccessible for people to reach. After extensive negotiations between 1972–1976, the village was transferred to Lagoon and dedicated in May 1976 (Memorial Day) by LDS President Spencer W. Kimball.

In the late 1970s SUP moved its headquarters to the old Sherman School on 33rd South and 23rd East in Salt Lake City. Work to establish a Headquarters Building began in 1972. Basic money for the construction initially came from payments made by Lagoon Corporation for the Village. Glen Lloyd, later a national president, was the architect for the new building.

Many sites were considered, including a site on Capitol Hill just north of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers building. The State had agreed to purchase land and furnish perpetual care, but not all of the needed property was available for purchase. Finally the land at 3301 East 2920 South, Salt Lake City, was purchased. The Headquarters Building now stands in the Parley's Canyon Rim area and was dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley on August 23, 1981, under the SUP presidency of K. Grant Hale.

The parking lot of the new headquarters was provided by a land donation from former National SUP President Karl B. Hale. Raising money for the new building came from the Name Memorialization Program and selling stairway tiles with names inscribed.

An **Awards Program** has been operating since the 1980s and recognizes chapters and individuals of chapters for comparative accomplishment and overall achievements.

A **Medallion Program** set up in the late '80s commemorates events in picture on gold, silver, and bronze coins. The project afforded SUP a money-making endeavor while honoring pioneer heritage.

During the presidential term of Morris P. Bennion, 1989, the **Grandson Organization** was initiated by President Bennion. The $1,000 donation entrance fee was placed in a trust fund for funding the awards to seminary students for essays on pioneer ancestors.

On May 12, 1990, under past-President Wendell Ashton, SUP honored The Right Honorable Edward Heath, former Prime Minister of England; John Huntsman, industrialist; and Maestro Maurice Abravenal, former director of the Utah Symphony.

The Nellie Unthank monument was placed on the campus of Southern Utah University in Cedar City in 1991. This courageous pioneer lost both feet due to frostbite and spent her life walking on the stubs of her legs and ankles (see *Pioneer,* 2006, #2, 11).

In 1993 National President Angus H. Belliston and fellow executives expanded the *Pioneer* magazine to provide a wide coverage of historical events and pioneer happenings as well as news reporting to SUP. It became a full-color, high-quality historical magazine worth keeping (see page 30, this issue).

An SUP goal in 1993 held a "Welsh Festival" at BYU (see page 4, this issue).

LDS church President Gordon B. Hinckley and wife Marjorie joined SUP in greeting the participants of the 1997 Trek Reenactment.

In 1994, SUP developed a scholarship and honor program called "**Tomorrows Pioneers**." Originated by Angus H. Belliston, the program continues today (see page 29, this issue).

A 70-foot-flagpole in front of the northwest corner of the Headquarters Building was dedicated in 2000 under the presidency of Dr. Ray H. Barton. "Old Glory" waving from this flagpole can be seen from many locations in the valley and has become a landmark.

SUP Family History Library

With the SUP Headquarters Building in place, the SUP Library began to take shape under the direction of Florence Youngberg and the national officers. It has since grown into a library of commanding presence with contents sought after worldwide. Eventually the Family History Library of the Canyon Rim Stake of the LDS church was combined with the SUP Library. Florence Youngberg first directed the Center until Sandra Jensen became director of the FHC site in the SUP Library complex.

A set of historical biographies compiled by Florence Youngberg has been made available in four volumes entitled *Conquerors of the West*.

Librarian Marilyn Johnson later paired with Florence Youngberg to manage the library (see "Searching the SUP Library," pages 34–36, this issue).

Mission of the National Society

A "Mission Statement" for the National Society was formulated in 2005, stressing the vitality and values of the organization:

- *Preserve the memory and heritage of the early pioneers of the Utah Territory.*

  We honor the pioneers for their faith in God; devotion to family; loyalty to church and country; hard work and service to others; courage in adversity; personal integrity; and unyielding determination.

- *Honor Present-day Pioneers worldwide in many walks of life, who exemplify these same qualities of character.*

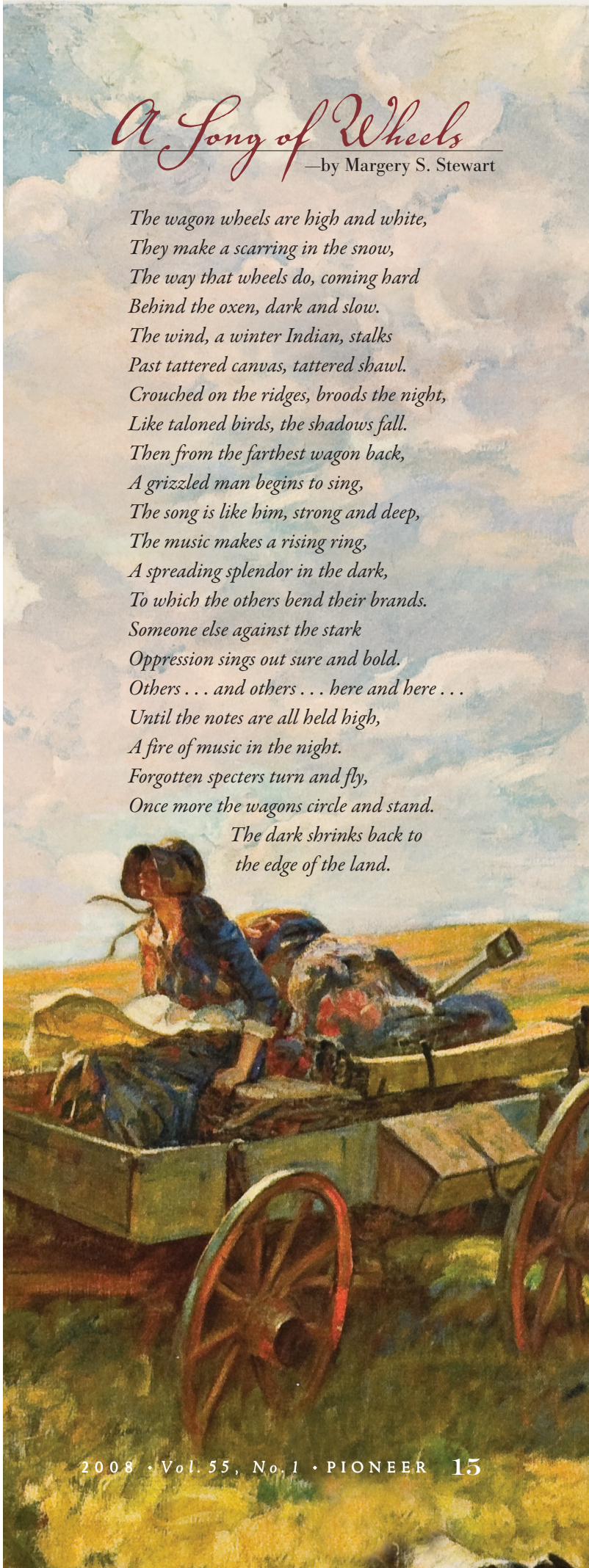
- *Teach these same qualities to the youth who will be tomorrow's pioneers.*

Unanimously approved by the SUP National Board, November 8, 2005.

A Song of Wheels

—by Margery S. Stewart

The wagon wheels are high and white,
They make a scarring in the snow,
The way that wheels do, coming hard
Behind the oxen, dark and slow.
The wind, a winter Indian, stalks
Past tattered canvas, tattered shawl.
Crouched on the ridges, broods the night,
Like taloned birds, the shadows fall.
Then from the farthest wagon back,
A grizzled man begins to sing,
The song is like him, strong and deep,
The music makes a rising ring,
A spreading splendor in the dark,
To which the others bend their brands.
Someone else against the stark
Oppression sings out sure and bold.
Others . . . and others . . . here and here . . .
Until the notes are all held high,
A fire of music in the night.
Forgotten specters turn and fly,
Once more the wagons circle and stand.
The dark shrinks back to
the edge of the land.



100
YEAR OLD
WAGON
SONS OF UTAH
PIONEER VILLAGE

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UTAH PIONEER VILLAGE

compiled by Susan Lofgren

The concept and reality of a Pioneer Village started early in the heart of Horace A. Sorensen. Originally the site of the village was the pasture and showring for a string of American saddlebred horses. The main museum building was the stable and the round house was the winter training ring. During that time Mr. and Mrs. Horace A. Sorensen, the founders of Pioneer Village, acquired quite a collection of old coaches, wagons, and other vehicles. Being in the retail furniture business they also obtained some beautiful pieces of antique furniture and household equipment.

When World War II made it almost impossible to hold horse shows, the round house was converted into a small museum for the National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers, opening October 24, 1948. The project grew, and the large barn was remodeled for the same purpose in 1954.

With the building of the Wanship Dam in the mountains east of Salt Lake City, the little pioneer village of Rockport was to be inundated. A request was made to preserve some of the old buildings erected during pioneer

times, and so Sorensen moved them into the pasture, and thus the museum grew into a "Pioneer Village." Additional old buildings were brought in, restored and furnished according to the period. Two old stores were acquired complete with counters, fixtures, and original stock which had been locked up for nearly 20 years. Included in the village was practically every kind of shop and public building found in pioneer times.

In 1956, Mr. and Mrs. Sorensen deeded the entire collection and the property on which it was situated to the National Society of Sons of Utah Pioneers. With the continued financial and technical assistance of Sorensen and others, additions were made to the village each year. Daily the team of oxen, "Ben" and "Lars," took hundreds of school-children, tourists, and visitors for a ride in a covered wagon. At the end of the ride the oxen would kneel down and "pray" for the riders. They were the only known praying oxen in the world. There was also a small herd of buffalo, and teams of horses were hitched to a wagon or an old coach on occasions.

Annually on "Pioneer Day," July 24th, a number of wagons, buggies, or old coaches were entered in the big parade. Several times during the year groups of Indians descended on the village to perform dances, demonstrate crafts, and show their way of life.

In the February 1954 *Instructor* magazine, Minnie E. Anderson records: "Here the culture of the Pioneers comes to life. The quaint atmosphere of their homes and every detail of living can be seen in this splendid and worthy collection of Pioneer items. Horace A. Sorensen has been the guiding genius in creating the museum which is really a pioneer village.

"Among the village treasures are: the awkward, hand sewn, hand woven clothes they wore—the bed with rope springs and straw filled mattress, the great iron kettles used to cook over the campfire or fireplace, the musical instruments, carriages and sleighs, the old tin bathtub, the weaving loom where the housewife wove the cloth to make their clothes, the great prairie schooners in which the Pioneers crossed the plains and sometimes lived in for a time until they could bring down logs from the canyon to build their homes, a chair that has likenesses of the heads of Joseph and Hyrum carved in the back.

"The Indian collection given by Mildred Miles Dillman of Roosevelt, Utah, is outstanding, with items dating back 2000 years. . . . Seven national authorities, including Dr. Donald Scott of Peabody Museum, Harvard University . . . examined [an Indian sandstone] tablet and pronounced it as being from culture that existed 1200–1700 years ago.

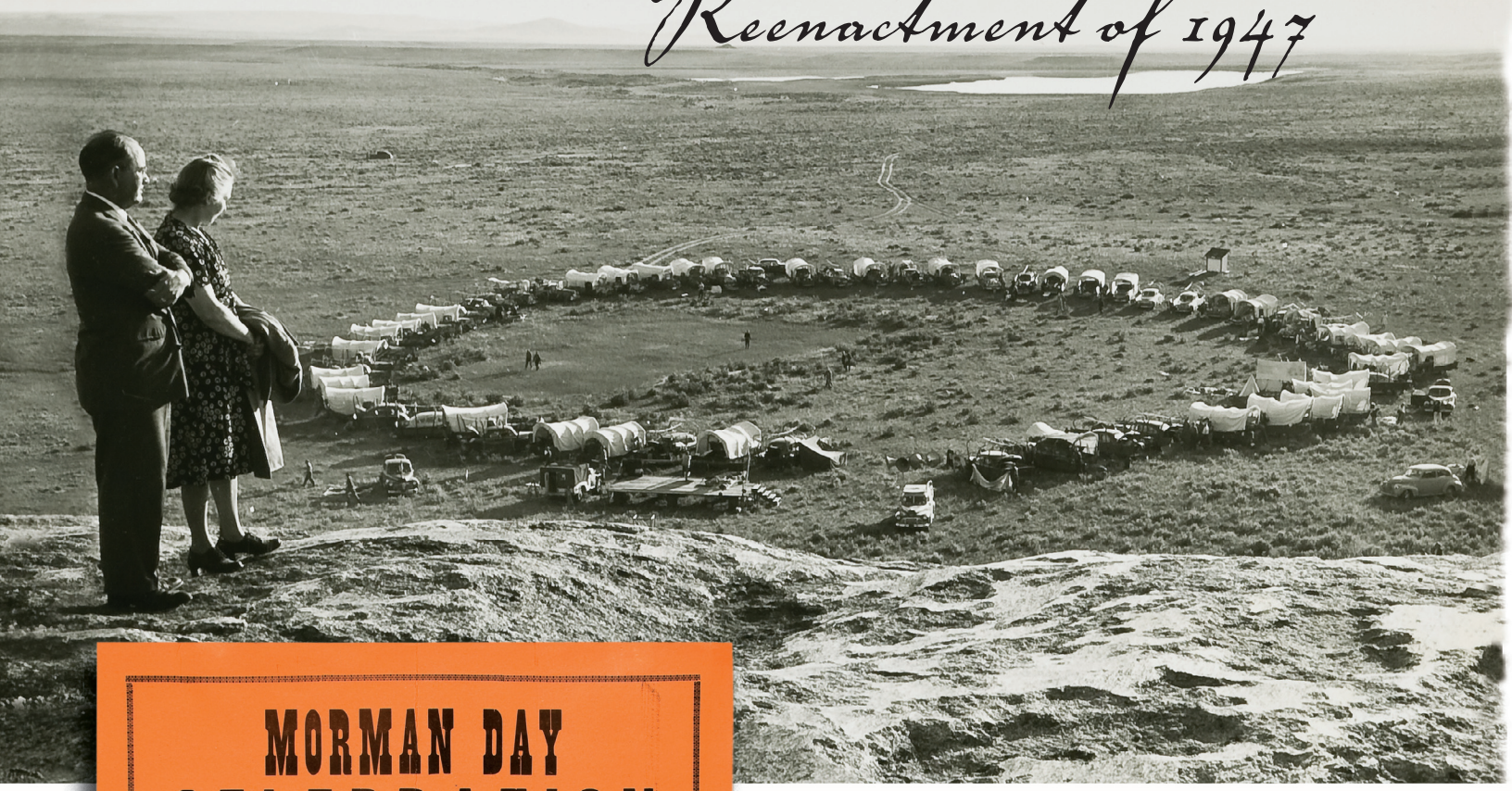
"You could spend hours in the museum's old merchandise store with all its stock, moved from Kamas, Utah, and assembled. It is a real education. Do take your Sunday School students out to see these and many other wonderful items of interest."

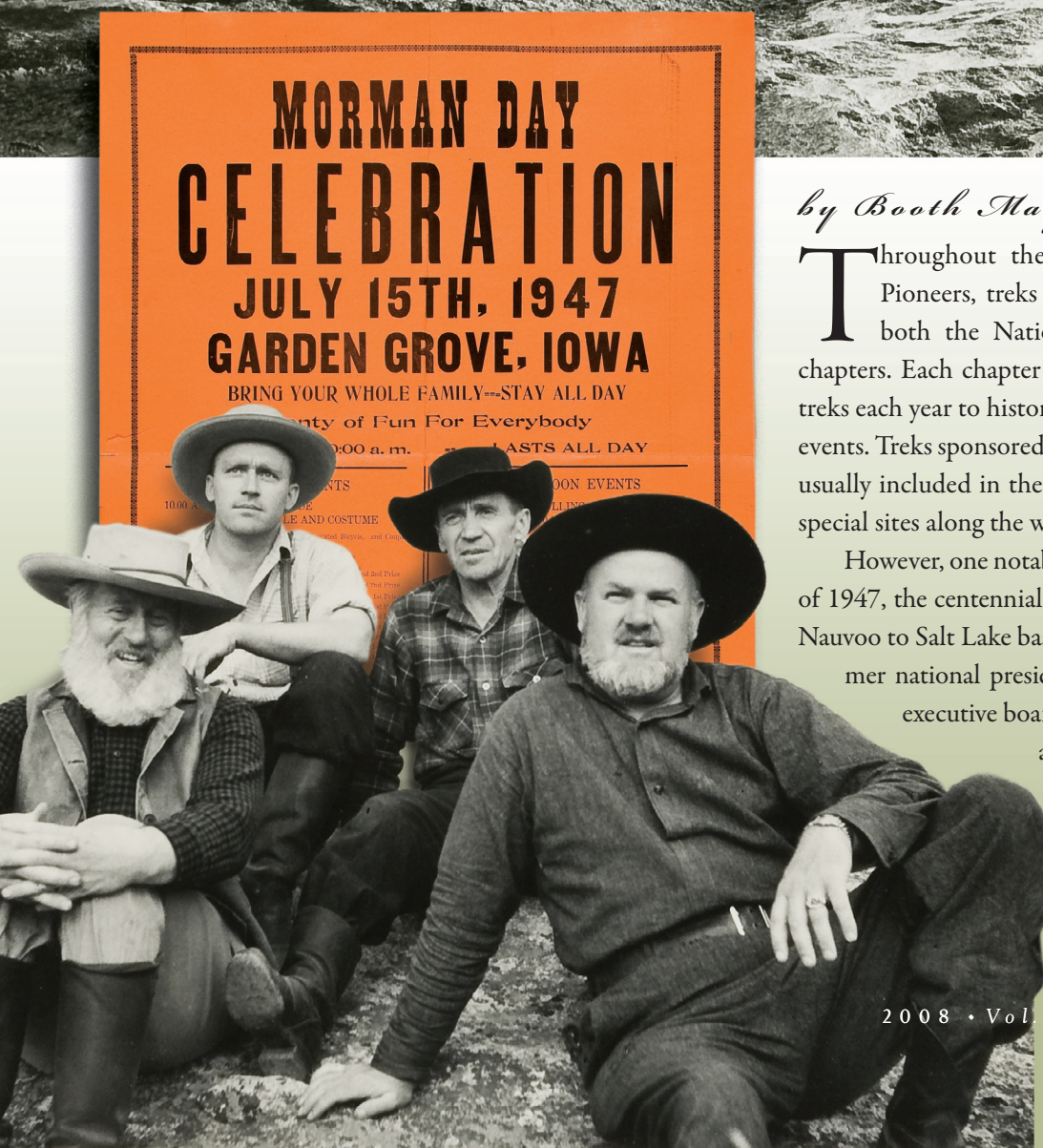
The pioneer spirit which built the West was recaptured and preserved there, and a visit to Pioneer Village left one with a lasting impression of the westward movement and a deeper appreciation of our great American heritage.

Recognition received by Pioneer Village

- "Award of Merit" from American Association of State and Local Histories, Washington D.C., 1954 and 1956.
- Utah State Historical Society "Award," 1960.
- The Gun Collection was featured in *Life* magazine, April 13, 1959.
- Member of National Trust for Preservation of Historical Sites, Washington D.C.
- Life member of American Pioneer Trails & Landmarks Association, New York.

The Pioneer Trek
Reenactment of 1947





by Booth Maycock, SUP President

Throughout the history of the Sons of Utah Pioneers, treks have been an important part of both the National Office and the individual chapters. Each chapter usually sponsors several one-day treks each year to historic sites, monuments, and cultural events. Treks sponsored by the National Organization are usually included in the annual encampment and feature special sites along the way.

However, one notable exception was the reenactment of 1947, the centennial of the original pioneer trek from Nauvoo to Salt Lake basin. In 1946, R. H. Wooten, a former national president, Wendell J. Ashton, and the executive board formulated a plan. Seventy-two automobiles were covered with framework and canvas to appear as covered wagons, replica wheels, and a pair of oxen. One hundred forty-three men, three women, and two children were

selected from the many applicants. These numbers including the number of wagons corresponded to Brigham Young's original group.

Chairman Willard R. Smith was given the formidable task of designing the covered wagon tops, which needed to be able to withstand the elements and not require modification of the cars. All cars should be new enough to stand the rigors of the long trip.

Other items organized included areas appropriate for "circling the wagons," adequate firewood, and appetizing, inexpensive menus. Game meat including buffalo was specified in some of the meals.

To select the 72 participants, each chapter was given a quota based on the number of paid-up members. The Daughters of Utah Pioneers supplied one sister; Dorothy Kimball Keddington, the great-granddaughter of Heber C. Kimball; Brother Darger chose the third; and the two boys were the outstanding Boy Scouts in the state.

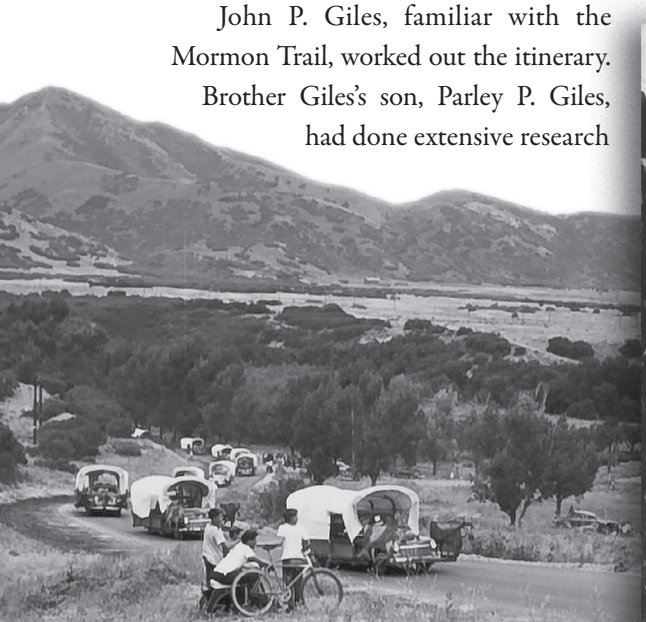
John P. Giles, familiar with the Mormon Trail, worked out the itinerary. Brother Giles's son, Parley P. Giles, had done extensive research on pioneer clothing and issued suggestions, including illustrations showing clothing that should be made for the trek by participants.

The specific route was carefully planned. Civic leaders from cities and towns along the way often presented a ceremony upon the trekkers, arrival at their respective towns. A theatrical group was organized and a portable stage transported along with the trek to present dramatizations of Mormon history.

A special invited guest on the trek was Elder Spencer W. Kimball and his wife, Camilla (pictured on page 19). Both won undying devotion of the trekkers by being "one with us in work and play." Elder Kimball, as a representative of the Church on the trek, gave impromptu talks at many of the communities along the route.

The trek began in Nauvoo July 14, 1947. The old Nauvoo Temple site was the scene of frantic industry, where wagon tops were assembled and installed (pictured upper left).

On the eve of the trek's departure, a special program was held on an impromptu stage, made of hay wagons side by side. Honored guests included Elder and Mrs. Spencer W. Kimball; Senator T. Mac Downing, of the Illinois State Legislature, and Mrs. Downing; Mayor and Mrs. Lowell F. Horton, of Nauvoo; and President George P. Anton, of the Nauvoo Chamber of Commerce. A speech, long to be remembered by the audience of two to three thousand, was given by Senator Downing in which he contrasted the treatment of the Mormons one



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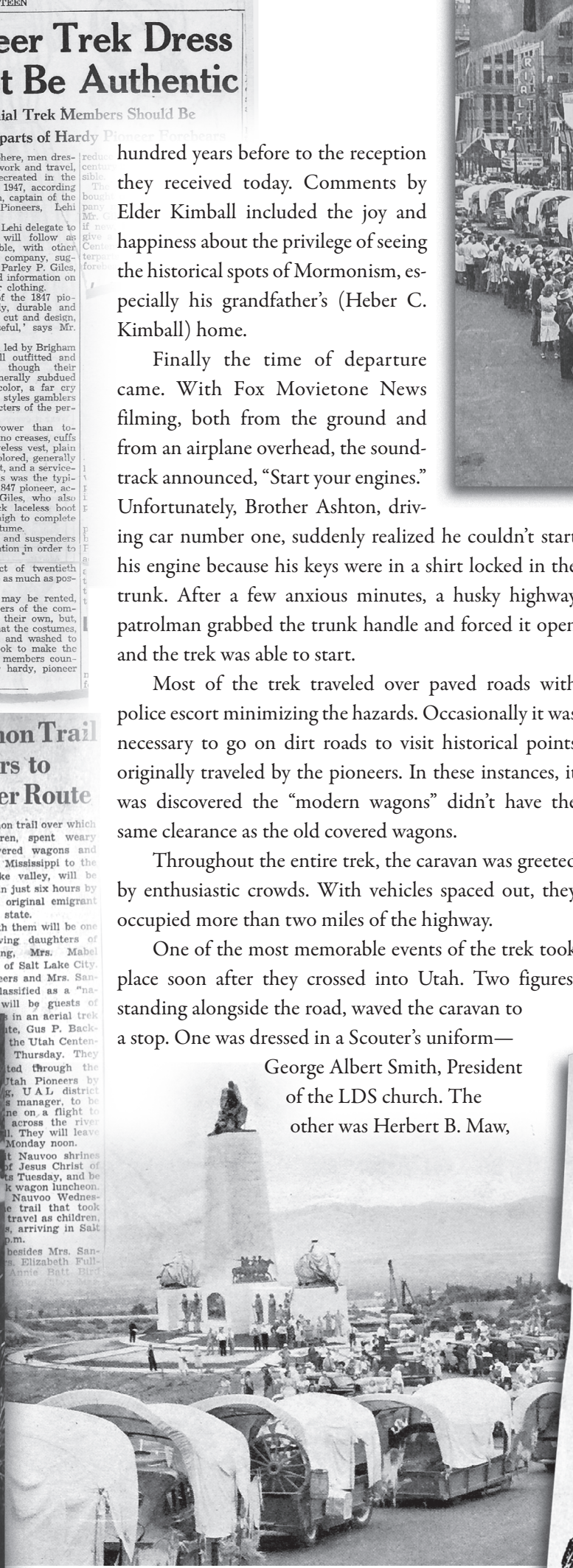


hundred years before to the reception they received today. Comments by Elder Kimball included the joy and happiness about the privilege of seeing the historical spots of Mormonism, especially his grandfather's (Heber C. Kimball) home.

Finally the time of departure came. With Fox Movietone News filming, both from the ground and from an airplane overhead, the soundtrack announced, "Start your engines." Unfortunately, Brother Ashton, driving car number one, suddenly realized he couldn't start his engine because his keys were in a shirt locked in the trunk. After a few anxious minutes, a husky highway patrolman grabbed the trunk handle and forced it open and the trek was able to start.

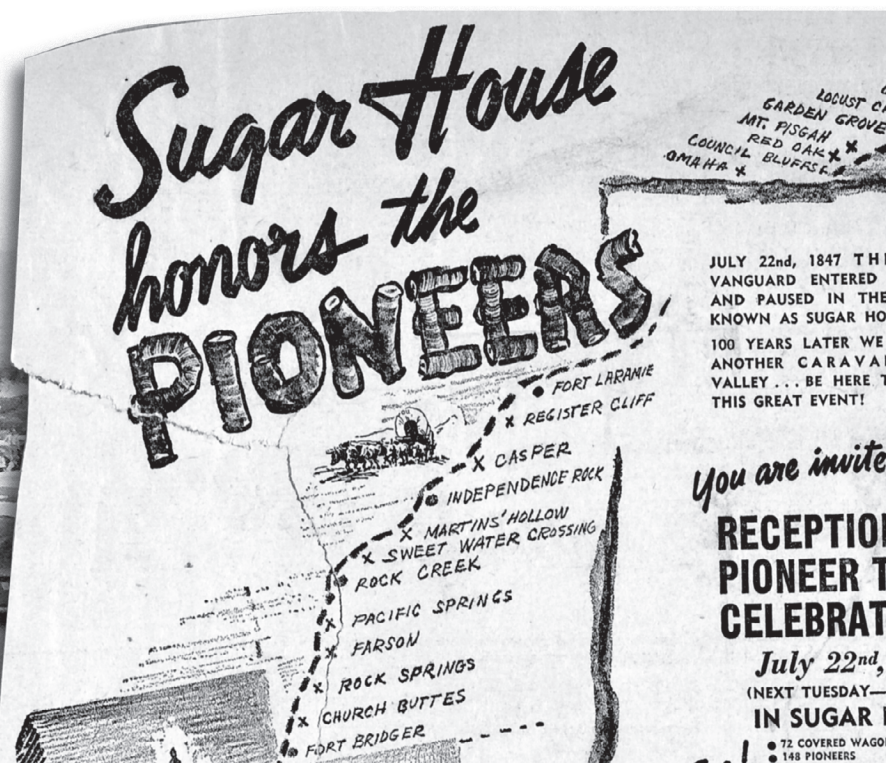
Most of the trek traveled over paved roads with police escort minimizing the hazards. Occasionally it was necessary to go on dirt roads to visit historical points originally traveled by the pioneers. In these instances, it was discovered the "modern wagons" didn't have the same clearance as the old covered wagons.

Throughout the entire trek, the caravan was greeted by enthusiastic crowds. With vehicles spaced out, they occupied more than two miles of the highway.

One of the most memorable events of the trek took place soon after they crossed into Utah. Two figures, standing alongside the road, waved the caravan to a stop. One was dressed in a Scouter's uniform—George Albert Smith, President of the LDS church. The other was Herbert B. Maw, governor of the State of Utah, both anxiously awaiting the arrival of the trek.

The conclusion of the trek was not without drama. At the last minute it was decided to change the route from East Canyon to Parley's and over the ridge to Immigration Canyon. What the trekkers did not know was that dozens of boys, dressed as Indians, were waiting in East Canyon to make a mock attack on the trek.

As the trek neared the end of the 10-day odyssey, thousands at "This Is the Place Monument" greeted them. The caravan moved on to Sugar House with the streets lined with well-wishers. After a brief ceremony they proceeded down to the Brigham Young monument in downtown Salt Lake City, where the First Presidency of the Church, Mayor Earl J. Glade, and thousands of cheering onlookers met them at the trek's end.



TREK DIARY *of T. F. Kirkham . . .*

Thomas Franklin Kirkham: "Santa Claus! Trekkers will not soon forget the silky abundance of his white beard. Born July 20, 1882, in Lehi, [Utah,] . . . about 20 years before his brother Ray [first president of the Los Angeles SUP]. Lists the following as newsworthy achievements: Missionary to Germany, 27 years as ward clerk, and has never tasted tee, coffee, liquor or tobacco. So popular as a Sunday School teacher he's [was] one for 40 years. Graduated from BYU before taking up his profession as an accountant and insurance man. Married Margaret J. Cavanagh and they have two children."

—D. James Cannon, Cenntenial Caravan *(Sons of Utah Pioneers, 1948), 29.*

July 15, 1947: Up this morning at 4:15 for an early breakfast. It's a grand day. The 161 Missionaries of the Northern State Mission assembled in Nauvoo and on the Temple Campus as we prepared to depart for the long Trek [with] that grand old hymn, "Come, Come Ye Saints," and "Got Be With you Til We Meet again."

"Wagons" going out of campus now called out by number over our public address system. It's a great sight to see them leave. Our number is "51." Going down Nauvoo Main Street amid the cheers of thousands of people at 8:06, we are off for Montrose. The streets where we passed were thronged with people waving us and cheering a farewell.

July 16, 1947: At Council Bluffs at 3:35 pm. Met Brother Francis A. Child, President of the Western States Mission. The program here is being broadcast over a national hook-up. The Announcer asked Apostle Kimball "10 Questions." Elder Kimball without any warning of the questions gave masterful answers.

July 17, 1947: Out on the highway had an accident. Wagon in head of us stopped. We stopped. Wagon next behind us stopped but car behind it crashed into it and drove it into our "Wagon" crashing our Wagon rear end. With wire, rope, etc. were able to tie ourselves together and limp on overtaking Caravan later.

July 20, 1947: Today is my 65th birthday. . . . On the way to this spot [Martin's Cove] I opened a Birthday box of candy given me by Phyllis and Ez on our departure from home which was not to be opened until today. We enjoyed the contents very much, and gave many other Trekkers of it too. . . . We proceeded on from here toward Rock Creek, the scene of Willie's handcart tragedy. . . . To reach Rock Creek a seldom traveled dirt road through sage brush hills had to be traversed. [Our] car is not only built low but those who helped us build the "Wagon Box" at Nauvoo designed our box even lower so that when we got on this dirt road crossing the first wash we broke the rear of our box. . . . The Caravan was far out of sight. . . . Luckily the last wagon to pass us, Brother Adrian Cannon had lumber with which we made the repairs. . . . The distance we did go we could travel only 5 to 10 miles per hour and much of it up steep grade which made the engine boil and the "Wagon" dragged the high center in the road. We had very little water with us. We stopped. Soon Brother Francis A. Child, President of the Western States Mission, came back from the Caravan which was already camped at Rock Creek 50 miles away. . . . They gave us 2 quarts of water they had in a fruit jar and that with what we had we decided to try once more. The high center dirt road and our low built "Wagon" made so disheartening that we stopped, took counsel, and decided to give up the Rock Creek Camp.

With much difficulty we found a place in the road wide enough and with more difficulty turned about face and went back to the highway. We left a note in a pile of rocks in the center of the road telling that we would join the Caravan at Rock Springs.[1]

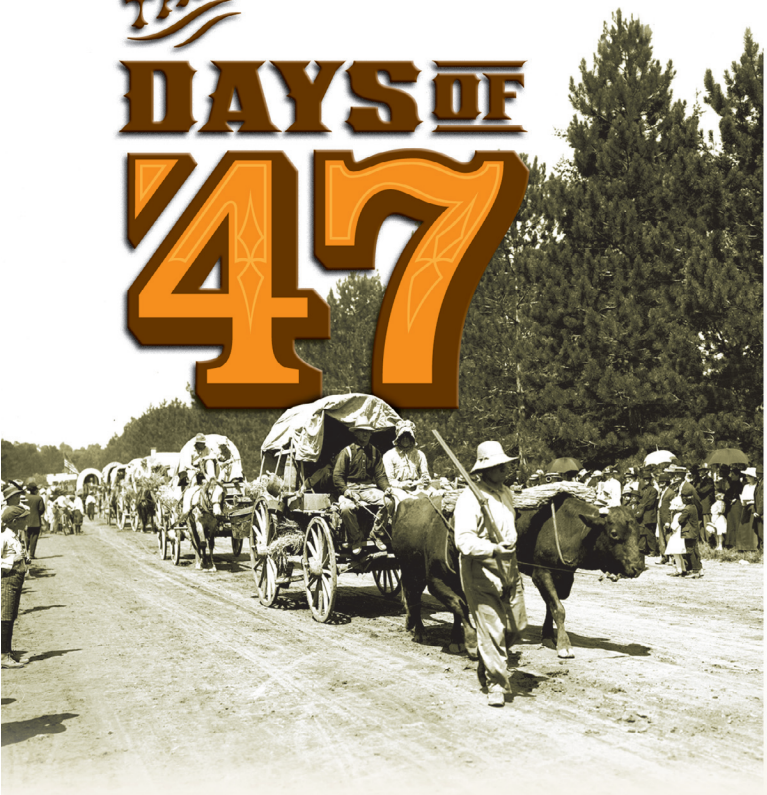
"We decorated those front cross braces [of our 'Wagon'] with two oxen skulls. . . . Then to the left of the side door may be seen my grandfather's sword which he carried over the plains to Utah in 1859. By the wagon door on the opposite we hung Grandfather's 45-70 rifle.

"To make this trek most of the 143 men grew a crop of whiskers. During the eight months preceding the Trek I put my shaving outfit on the shelf and grew a long white (gray) beard. I was often called "Santa Claus."[2]

1 Personal trek diary of T. F. Kirkham, SUP Collection.
2 Letter by Kirkham to W. Wesson Dickerson, *Detroit Free Press,* Detroit, Michigan.

Trek photos from T. F. Kirkham's historical memory book, SUP collection (19–22).

THE DAYS OF '47



by Grant E. Barton,
2006 SUP President

The largest pioneer celebration in America takes place in the weeks leading up to July 24th in Salt Lake City, Utah. This massive celebration commemorates the arrival of Brigham Young and his vanguard of what would become some 60–80,000 pioneers crossing the plains to establish an intermountain empire of over 400 settlements. This pioneer celebration today is called "The Days of '47." For much of its history, the Sons of Utah Pioneers have played an integral role in these festivities.

Tuesday, July 24th, 1849, two years after entering the valley, the first recorded Pioneer Day Celebration in the Great Basin took place, according to the Journal History of the Church. (See President Nephi L. Morris, *Pioneer,* June 1936, 1).

On July 23, 1857, 2,587 persons in 464 carriages and wagons traveled up Big Cottonwood Canyon to Brighton and celebrated the first statewide pioneer celebration. It consisted of singing, athletic events, talks, militia drills, music (six brass bands), and "banging" (discharge of small arms and a large brass howitzer). American flags were planted on the two highest peaks and at President Brigham Young's camp. About noon on July 24th, Porter Rockwell and three others rode into camp with distressing news that Johnston's Army was marching toward the Great Basin.[1]

At the 1880 pioneer celebration, 33 years had passed since the Saints entered the valley. The population had jumped from 450 original settlers to 143,690. The pioneer parade was a mammoth procession, three miles long, to showcase Utah's growth through a third of a century. Leading the Grand Parade were the surviving pioneers seated in decorated carriages, followed by fully a dozen brass bands from Salt Lake and adjacent settlements.[2]

On July 23, 1936, at 6:30 a.m., a Sunrise Service was conducted at the proposed site of a new imposing pioneer monument near the mouth of Emigration Canyon, to be called "This Is the place." LDS President David O. McKay announced plans for the impressive monument to be built and unveiled at the 1847 Centennial celebration.[3]

In May 1940, the SUP Salt Lake Chapter President George A. Parry was closely associated with the leaders of the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce. He was responsible for his SUP chapter's becoming a managing force behind the 24th of July celebration, known as "Covered Wagon Days."

During the year 1943, the Sons of Utah Pioneers Luncheon Club was formally invited by the Bureau of Publicity and the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce to provide the leadership for the Covered Wagon Days Celebration.[4] Former SUP President Gaylen S. Young, an attorney, who had earlier incorporated the SUP Luncheon Club, helped incorporate the nonprofit entity "The Days of '47 Inc."[5] With the support of the governor, the mayor, and the LDS church President, The Days of '47 Inc. was "composed principally of the Sons and Daughters of Utah Pioneers."[6] SUP President Thomas B. Child became the first president of The Days of '47 Inc, with DUP President Kate B. Carter as associate president.

The 1943 Days of '47 Celebration, under SUP and DUP leadership, was a grand success. It included crowning the royalty by Governor Maw on the Capitol steps, a Tabernacle Choir/Symphony concert in the Salt Lake Tabernacle, a Coronation Ball, four days of street shows, a Sunrise Service at Lindsay Gardens, and Leo Cramer's famous Rodeo at the Fair Park.[7]

Under the leadership of the Sons and Daughters of Utah Pioneers, the Days of '47 Board combined with over 100 business, government, and church leaders to plan the 100th Anniversary of the pioneer's entrance into the valley.[8] The Centennial Celebration included Crawford Gates's *The Promised Valley,* written for the occasion and performed on a four-level stage.[9] The Tabernacle Choir performed, Gene Autry and his horse, Champion, were featured at the rodeo held at the Salt Lake Fair Grounds, and the parade featured 19 floats from the original 19 wards. A pageant was held at the University of Utah Stadium and SUP supported the "Every man in Utah will grow a Centennial beard."[10]

The Days of '47 included 16 types of entertainment—each recalling events in the daily lives of the pioneers. Square dancing was introduced in 1951. Queen

contestants had to be descendants from pioneers. Eugene Jelesnick started a Pops Concert, featuring popular performing stars, which became the opening event of the annual celebration. The Sunrise Service in the Tabernacle was called "A Pioneer Miracle"; downtown activities included "High Noon Hilarities," a rodeo, youth parade, and the Grand Parade.

The Days of '47 sponsored Piute Indian tribal dances, in conjunction with the "old-Fashioned Family Celebration" at Pioneer Park in Salt Lake—the site of the original pioneer fort. In 1961, the horse parade became an official part of the Days of '47. That year, the six surviving immigrant pioneers (one man and five women) were honored at a luncheon.[11] During this period, 12 of the 26 directors of the Days of '47 Inc. were members of the SUP.[12]

In 1970 the *Deseret News* Marathon was added, generally following the route the pioneers took in entering the valley.[13] The Grand Parade was ranked near the top of all American parades. In 1977, Jay Dunyon (the SUP president-elect became president of the Days of '47. Emma Olsen (the DUP president) became associate president of the Days of '47.[14]

Today, the leadership of The Days of '47 Inc. is no longer dominated by the Sons and Daughters of Utah Pioneers. Officers of both organizations, however, continue to serve on the Days of '47 Board. The Queen Contest is under the direction of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers and the Sunrise Service is provided by the Salt Lake Pioneer Chapter of the Sons of Utah Pioneers. SUP traditionally has an impressive entry near the front of the Grand Parade, and the presidents of both the SUP and DUP ride with their spouses in the Grand Parade and with grandchildren in the children's parade.

In 2006 and 2007, SUP chapters in the Salt Lake area continued to provide significant assistance in several Days of '47 events. Chapter members distributed tens of thousands of Days of '47 brochures, conducted the traditional Sunrise Service, and provided volunteers at the Family Fun Day. In addition, the past National SUP Presidents and their wives judged the parade floats to determine the entry that best depicted traditional pioneer values and then presented the creators of the winning float with a plaque. In 2007, the Sons of Utah Pioneers provided an impressive parade entry involving 17 American flags, five handcarts, and a Canastota Wagon carrying an elderly man whose father was an actual pioneer who crossed the plains.

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1979 *Mormon Trail Relay*

by Jay M. Smith, 2007 SUP President

In 1979, the *Deseret News* and the National Association of the Sons of Utah Pioneers collaborated to sponsor a very popular and exciting event. From May 23 to June 1, 1979, some 450 men, women and children, all descendants of early-day pioneers, ran 10-mile segments of the 1,450-mile trail between Nauvoo, Ilinois, and Salt Lake City, Utah. This epic relay was one of the longest ever recorded.

The event triggering the relay was the naming of the Mormon Trail as a national historic trail a few months earlier. When the idea of the relay was conceived, individuals who desired to run and who had pioneer ancestors were encouraged to submit their applications. There were 145 segments of 10 miles each marked along the trail. The relayers ran day and night, so many of the pass-offs took place by moonlight. Each segment had three assigned runners. Each wore a special blue, white, and gold Mormon Relay T-shirt and carried either a hollow gold, silver, or bronze baton with a greeting from Walter H. Peirce, the mayor of Nauvoo, Illinois, to local government officials along the trail.

The relay wasn't really a race, but each runner tried to make the 10 miles as fast as possible. Runners congregated to their assigned spots from all over the country. One of the runners who was accepted for the relay was my 17-year-old son, Randall Cooley Smith. His assigned route was in eastern Wyoming south of Casper. He took his high school running companion with him, who became official when one of the runners in Randy's segment did not show. My wife and I took the boys to the beginning spot. Their time was late afternoon, and although it was cloudy, we did benefit from daylight. The organizers set a goal for the runners of 75 minutes for the segment, or 7.5 minute miles. Randy was on his high school cross-country team, so he was determined to get the baton there on time. He made it in 63 minutes. The next day we went to Casper and joined other runners in a special pioneer program conducted by local Church leaders. Similar celebrations were scheduled in local communities as the relay passed by.

The event meant a lot to each of the runners. By traveling along the Trail, they were able to feel the spirit of the pioneers who passed by on this trail over a century before. Nearly all the runners were active members of the LDS church. The runners included members and leaders such as bishops, stake presidents, and mission presidents. The youngest recorded runner was 9. Several runners were in their 60s. "Some developed blisters, sunburns, pulled muscles, and they pushed themselves to near exhaustion, but the tougher the run, the

(Left to right) Spencer Young, Ralph G. Smith, Patriarch Eldred G. Smith, Lionel N. Maw. Standing in front is 12-year-old Jared Preisley, who ran the last 10 miles of the SUP Mormon Trail Relay. Ralph G. Smith presents Indian peace pipe to former Governor Herbert B. Maw.

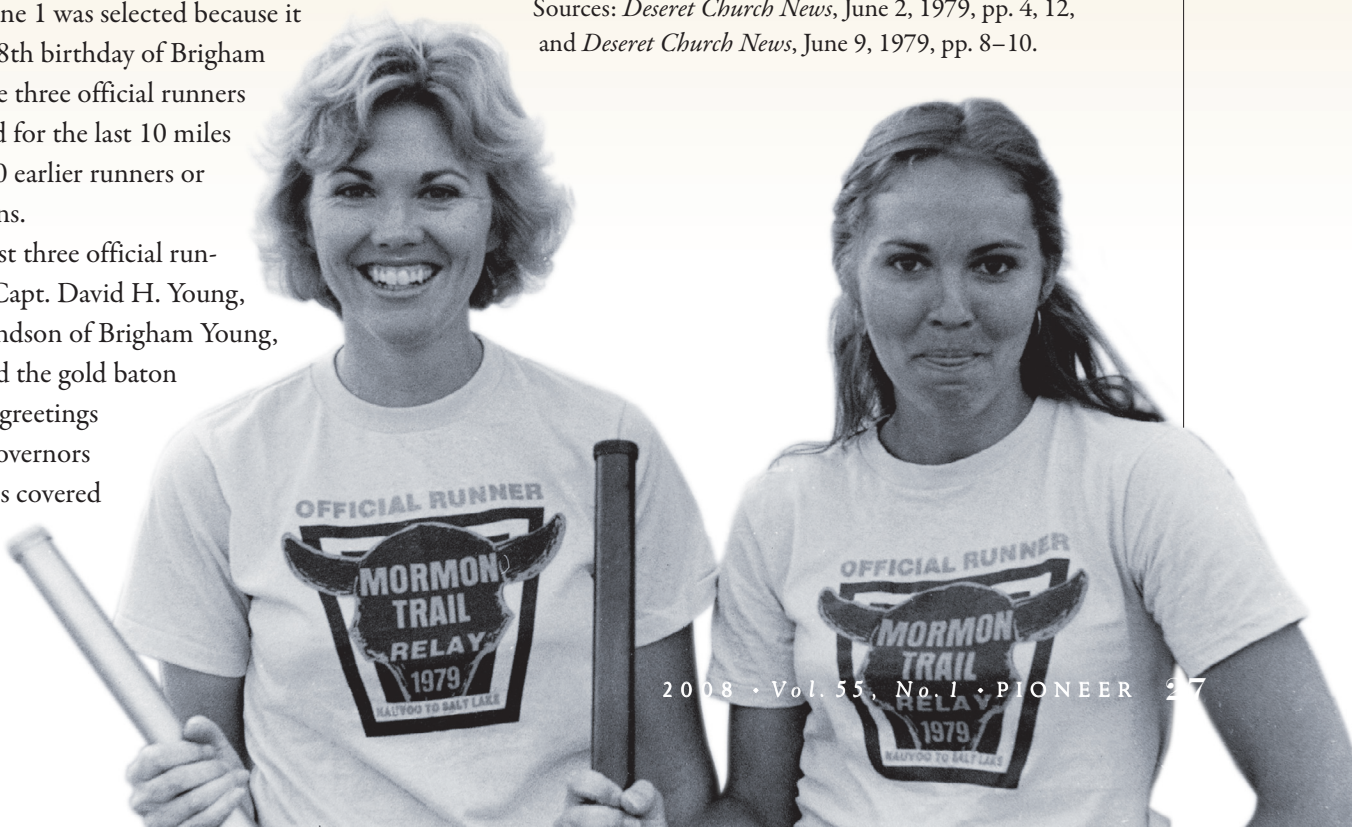
closer they felt to their pioneer ancestors and the more determined they were to finish their 10-mile segment."

The relay ended at the "This Is the Place Monument" in Salt Lake City on June 1, nine days after the first runner started. A large audience of over 1,000 people gathered to greet the runners in the early evening. June 1 was selected because it was the 178th birthday of Brigham Young. The three official runners were joined for the last 10 miles by over 100 earlier runners or local citizens.

The last three official runners were Capt. David H. Young, a great-grandson of Brigham Young, who carried the gold baton filled with greetings from the governors of the states covered by the Mormon Trail; John Payne of Provo, Utah, who carried the silver baton filled with wishes gathered along the way from mayors and city officials; and Jared Preisley, 12, of Ogden, Utah, who carried the blue baton containing messages from stake and mission presidents along the Trail.

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir was on hand and sang three numbers: "Let the Mountains Shout for Joy," "Come, Come Ye Saints," and "Oh Beautiful for Spacious Skies." Speakers at the program included President Spencer W. Kimball, Governor Scott M. Matheson, and Salt Lake Mayor Ted Wilson, each who had received one of the three batons from the last runners. All runners received a certificate. Some have suggested that this event be held again because of the enthusiasm the first run generated.

Sources: *Deseret Church News*, June 2, 1979, pp. 4, 12, and *Deseret Church News*, June 9, 1979, pp. 8–10.



Today's PIONEERS

During the 1990s an idea gradually came to fruition that had previously been discussed, but not fully implemented within the SUP organization: "Looking only backward at history is good, but not great." Accordingly, the SUP mission statement was modified and now reads, in part: "The Society also honors present-day pioneers worldwide in many walks of life who exemplify these same qualities of character [faith in God, devotion to family, loyalty to church and country, hard work and service to others, courage in adversity, personal integrity and unyielding determination]. It is further intended to teach these same qualities to the youth who will be tomorrow's pioneers." To make it really meaningful, the great legacy left at such cost by the early pioneers must live again in the lives of pioneers of today and must live again in the lives of our children who must be tomorrow's pioneers.

Emanuel Ohene Opare

Recently at a special SUP activity, Emanuel Opare of Ghana (pictured left with Grant Barton) was recognized as an outstanding modern-day pioneer. Emanuel and his wife, Monica, live with their family in this undeveloped West African country where the Church has sometimes struggled to gain acceptance from a hostile government. When church buildings were padlocked and armed soldiers threatened worshippers, Emanuel's advice as a leader of his persecuted people was always to obey the government but continue faithful to the principles they knew to be right.

His own integrity was well known, both to his faithful flock and to his employers in high government positions. As a stake president and then as an Area Authority, with a host of serious problems constantly facing him, he has continued faithful to the pioneer ideals of faith in God, devotion to family, courage in adversity and service to others.

We honor him for his integrity and for his unrelenting service to his people.

Robert and Susan Roylance

Susan Roylance has spearheaded the "Stay Alive" HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Program for Children, used by thousands of public school teachers and community groups in many countries. Bob and Susan have personally introduced these materials into eight African countries. Susan also founded United Families International, an organization that lobbies at the United Nations and informs many people in many nations, shoring up the traditional family which is under such intense attack. She also wrote the Pro-Family Negotiating Guide, which is used by diplomats and delegates to craft international public policy to strengthen the family.

Bob Roylance, an ag-economics professional and an officer of the Church Farm Management Division, supervised hundreds of LDS church farms until he retired early to assist farmers in Kenya and other African countries to drill wells, irrigate their crops, and market them internationally. With Susan, he helped pioneer the work of the Reach the Children organization and assisted in the adoption of hundreds of orphans into loving families.

For these wonderful pioneering efforts, the SUP has honored this exemplary couple as among "Today's Pioneers."

Sister Roylance presenting school books.

Tomorrow's PIONEERS

An important part of the mission of the Sons of Utah Pioneers is to teach pioneer ideals to our youth. In carrying out this part of its mission, the SUP organization awards many college scholarships to enable worthy young people to continue their education. The SUP also promotes the writing of pioneer biographies by high school students and essays on frontier life by grade school children. From hundreds of biographies and essays, winners are chosen by participating SUP chapters and given recognition and cash awards.

SUP Scholarship Winners

When we found him, **Aaron** was a student at an alternative high school. Earlier, he had lost all interest in family and school and had dropped out. His grades had gone down to near-zero. His life was on a failure track with the wrong group of friends. And he was in serious trouble. But finally, with the encouragement of his grandfather and his bishop, he reentered school. Aaron was bright and capable and decided to set some goals, change his life, and pursue his "impossible dream." He got a part-time job and studied hard to bring his grades up in his final semester at school to a perfect 4.0. He became an inspiration to his fellow students and was described by one teacher as "a pioneer for good at this school." With the help of his SUP scholarship, Aaron enrolled in college, was rated best in his class in EMT studies, and married his sweetheart in an LDS temple. One day in the Provo temple, this writer met Aaron, who was there as the only escort for a friend. To my inquiry, his answer was, "Yes, he's my buddy; he's been with me the whole time, and now we've got him ready for his mission." Both of these young men are on their way to becoming Tomorrow's Pioneers.

Melissa's parents were divorced. She and her little sisters lived with their mother in a small mobile home. But her mother was on drugs and often in jail. It was up to Melissa to provide meals and get her sisters to school, to church, and to bed on time. But she retained her native enthusiasm and said her many challenges made her stronger. She was active in sports, camp activities, and church leadership and held a part-time job to provide funds. Her leaders said Melissa demonstrated excellence, enthusiasm, and diligence in filling every assignment. One said she was "the golden thread that holds us all together." With funds provided by an SUP scholarship she earned a 3.9 grade average during her first year at a community college and then went on to Utah State University. Melissa is a real Pioneer!

Marco is from Mexico. His family struggled through 45 moves while his father searched for work. With father often absent, and later with an unsupportive stepfather, the mother and children found that only their faith in God and singing as a family held them together. Marco worked part time to help with the family budget but was still able to participate in drama, serve on the student council, get top grades, and earn his Eagle Scout badge. Even better, he became a spirit-lifter for other students who knew him and admired his example of optimism. During one year at the university he was very successful as a student and active in musical productions. He then left to serve a mission for his church.

Ashlee had more than 20 surgeries during her youth and spent months in the hospital to correct birth defects. Yet she kept up with her studies and graduated with her peers. She worked as an office aide at school and helped with activities for prevention of drug, alcohol, and tobacco use. At an educational facility in the mountains, Ashlee participated in most of the activities, which required physical stamina, usually walking on her own with her crutches. But sometimes her team members carried her up the steepest hills. As she enrolled in college her goal was to become an English teacher. She will be one of Tomorrow's Pioneers!

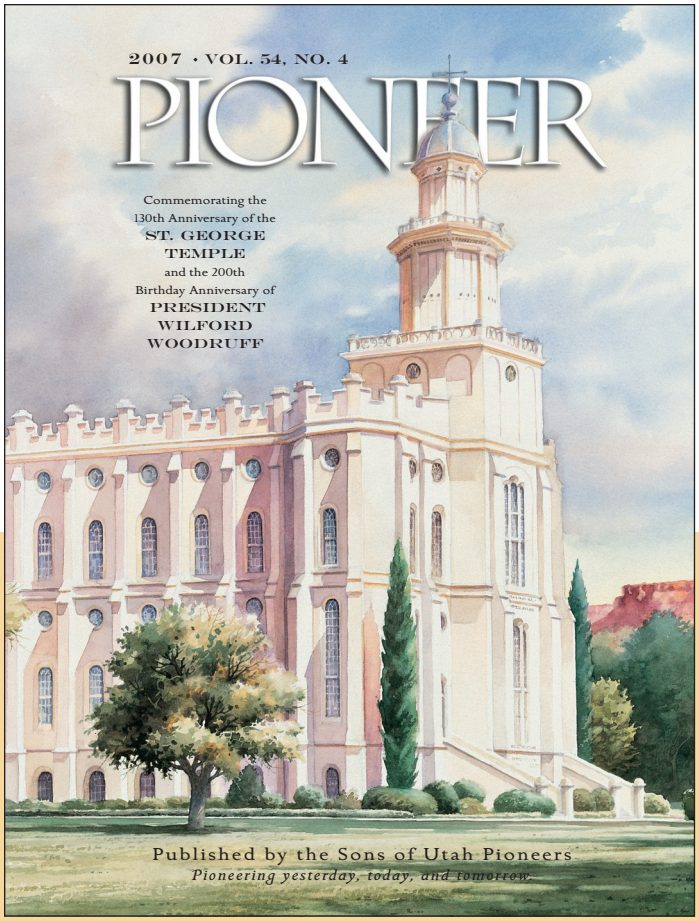
Ryan, though afflicted with an amazing series of medical operations, was active as president of the high school band and performed with several musical groups. He even traveled to Europe as a "Utah Ambassador of Music," and through it all he maintained good grades in

school. All of this was in spite of a degenerative disease that led to at least seven major surgeries on his back. Some of these were unsuccessful, due to infections and other complications. The frequent and severe trauma required great emotional resiliency and optimism to endure them. He maintained his determination to avoid painkillers. Only 10 days after having a steel rod inserted from neck to waist to strengthen his spine, Ryan came in a wheelchair to receive his SUP college scholarship. After one year in college, he left to serve an LDS mission in Boston, where miraculously he found the only hospital in the country with specialists in his kind of medical problem.

Today there are many more Aarons and Melissas and Ryans out there who have the same inner strength and faith manifested by their ancestors and who are being aided in achieving their goals by generous helping hands. Today, in addition to those receiving college scholarships, many youngsters in junior high schools and grade schools are accepting the invitation of SUP to submit essays and short biographies about their forefathers. It is hoped that these activities will instill within these "Pioneers of Tomorrow" an understanding of what was really good about their earlier predecessors, as well as a desire to become like them.

Please take a moment now to become acquainted with *Pioneer* magazine, which you are now reading. This lovely quarterly journal has evolved since 1936 from an internal newsletter by the same name. In 1993 a team of writers and historians agreed the message deserved to be published more widely and with more appeal to the public. The new *Pioneer* magazine was to be of high quality in content and appearance and would contain little advertising. A generous donor provided $150,000 of seed money and the magazine was launched with a beautiful original painting by Al Rounds on its cover.

Since then, it has gained a reputation for splendid covers, professional layouts, previously unpublished pictures and readable stories about the legacy of the pioneers. It is published by a volunteer committee, who give countless hours of their time to assure that the magazine meets high standards of journalism and faithfully presents the



inspiring message the SUP is committed to perpetuate. An expert editor and a layout professional likewise give generously of time, beyond the hours for which they are paid. You may order your own copy, or a gift subscription, using our toll-free number: **1-866-724-1847**, or **484-4441**.

Like *Pioneer* magazine, the SUP website—**www.utahpioneers.org**—is produced with the help of devoted volunteers and a part-time webmaster. Both of these publications are worth the visit! On the Web, the reader is invited to learn more about the early pioneers, with links to hundreds of historic monuments and memorials, other links to the many pioneer trails, others to short bios of Today's and Tomorrow's Pioneers. The website also contains synopses of SUP publications, reviews of current activities, an extensive calendar of coming community historical events, and links to other history-oriented organizations. All these are quickly available to any skilled or unskilled web browser. Come and visit us at **www.utahpioneers.org**.

Preserving Our Pioneer Heritage through Historical Markers & Monuments

"Whenever we make the effort to better learn and understand our heritage, we are strengthened. By studying and visiting the sites of important events, we can gain a strong understanding and connection with our past."
—2004 SUP President Kent V. Lott

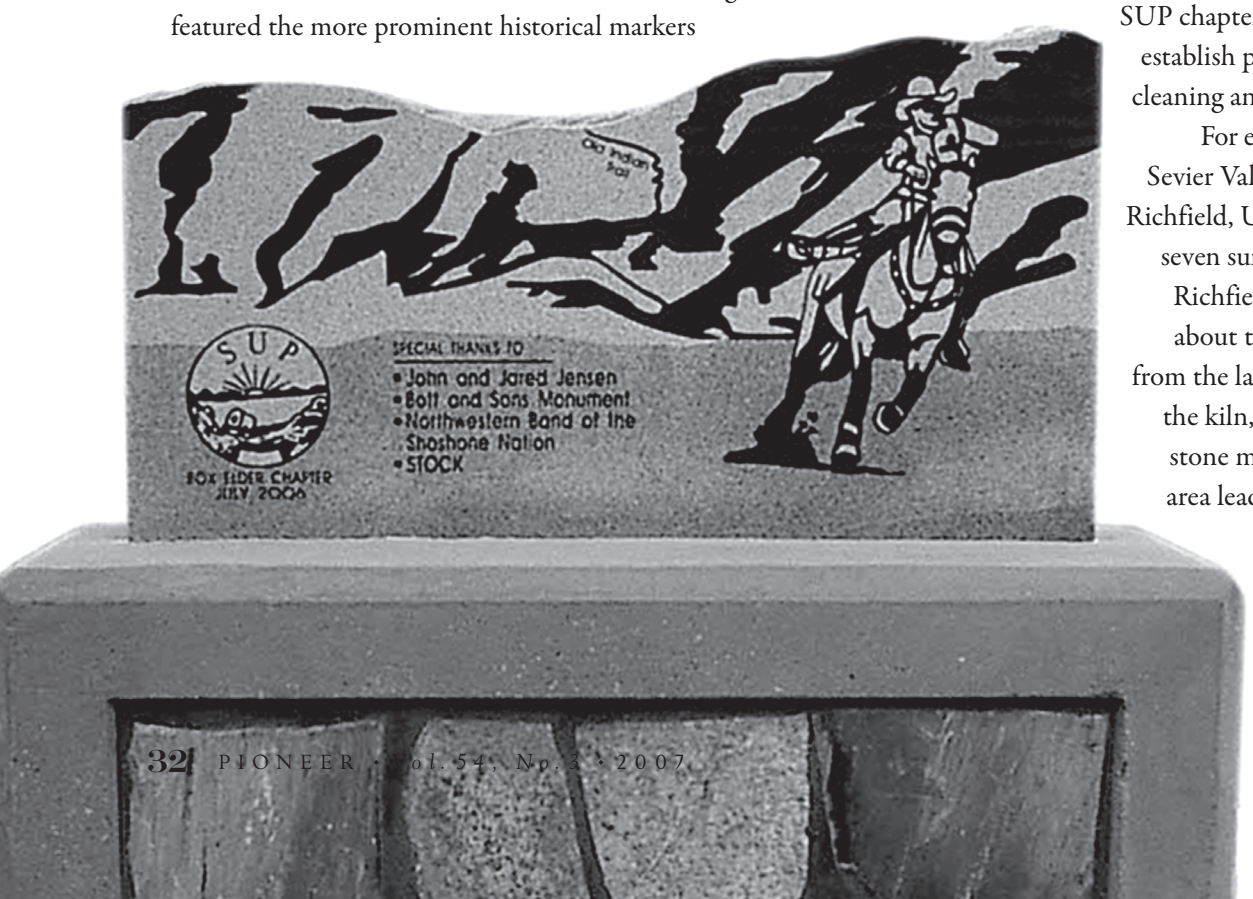
by Stewart Radmall, Gerald Haycock, and Jay M. Smith

One of the more successful ways history can be preserved for today's generation is through historical markers and monuments placed near the site of some significant event or place in history. Because of the success of this mode of teaching and learning history, the Sons of Utah Pioneers joins scores of other organizations in identifying and marking significant events. Local chapters of SUP are encouraged to learn about the history of their surrounding area and to be continually engaged in a monument or marker project.

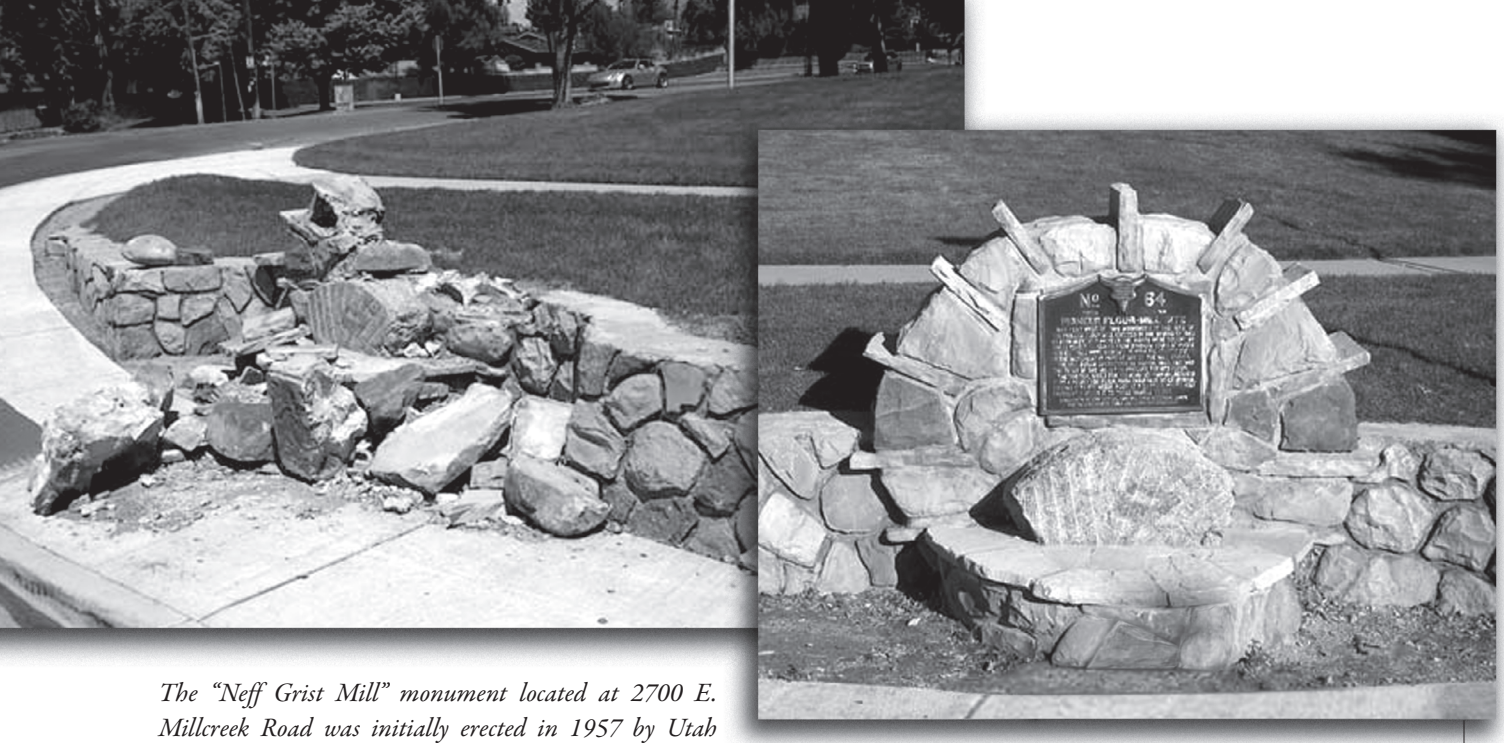
In 2006, the entire second issue of *Pioneer* magazine featured the more prominent historical markers and monuments erected by the Sons of Utah Pioneers. The cover of that issue displayed the beautiful Ellen (Nellie) Pucell Unthank monument erected in Cedar City by the National Society in 1991.

SUP chapters are encouraged to be involved in ongoing new monument projects. Local historical sites are researched and permits obtained to place the monument on private or government land. In many cases, the chapter joins with other historical or government units to bring the project to fruition. Chapter members are recruited to assist in the fund raising and in preparing the land for erection of the monument. Hundreds of hours are donated to building the monument, landscaping the surrounding area, and arranging for the dedicatory services once the monument is completed.

During the 1930s, the Utah Pioneer Trails and Land Association (UPTLA) was organized by George Albert Smith and others who erected, often with other groups, more than 120 monuments during its 20+ year history. When this organization ceased to exist in the 1950s, the Sons of Utah Pioneers assumed the maintenance responsibility for these historical markers along with their own. SUP chapters today continue to establish programs of periodic cleaning and restoration.



For example, in 2006, the Sevier Valley SUP Chapter in Richfield, Utah, selected one of seven surviving vital pioneer Richfield lime kilns and set about to obtain permission from the landowners to restore the kiln, build an impressive stone marker, landscape the area leading to the lime kiln with walkways and benches, and hold a dedicatory service. The land was donated by the



The "Neff Grist Mill" monument located at 2700 E. Millcreek Road was initially erected in 1957 by Utah Pioneers Trail and Landmarks Association. Since that Association no longer exists, the Mills Chapter in Salt Lake has adopted this monument and restored it in early 2007. Shortly after it was completed, a teenage driver lost control of his car and smashed into it, leaving the monument in ruins. The Mills Chapter completely restored it a second time.

Ogden family, and a descendant of the original Richfield family, Steve Ogden, owner of Ogden's Carpets, gave the dedicatory prayer before a large audience of SUP members and townspeople. The lime kiln area continues to be developed as one of the pioneer waterwheels was acquired in 2007 and is being moved to the site by SUP chapter members.

Members of the SUP Box Elder Chapter sponsored the building of a monument in the town of Mantua, Utah, in Box Elder Canyon. This monument commemorates the Logan to Brigham City Pioneer Express Mail Service (pictured lower left). Beginning in 1859, Samuel Whitney was called to carry mail by horseback from new settlements in Cache Valley to Brigham City and return. Samuel was a friend to the Indians, and as he used the old Indian trail was easily recognized because of his missing arm. Samuel continued this service until a stagecoach road was built to replace the horse delivery. The idea for a monument to recognize this early pioneer and the route he traveled came from Duane Phippen, a member of the Box Elder Chapter. Mantua, in the canyon the route took, was selected as the site for the monument. The town council approved the project and donated land in front of their city offices for the handsome marker. Scores of hours were devoted to the project by chapter members and over 200 persons including representatives of the Shoshone Indian tribe attended the dedicatory services held on July 22, 2006.

In addition to getting into an automobile or onto a bus to visit the historical sites and their monuments and markers, it is now technologically possible to visit them through the internet. While perhaps not as inspiring as actually being there, the ability to view the site and the marker as well as read the history of the site opens up a broad panorama for hard-to-reach areas such as "Hole in the Rock" and for persons whose health does not permit extensive travel. The Sons of the Utah Pioneers website, **sonsofutahpioneers.org**, has a special section for its monuments and markers. The site is being developed to include location, historical descriptions, marker content, and pictures of the erected memorial. UPTLA monuments are also being added to this site. A similar internet listing for over 400 monuments in Utah has been developed by the Utah State Government and is posted at **http://history.utah.gov/apps/markers/index.php**.

The 75-year history of the National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers has been replete with examples of preserving our pioneer heritage through monuments and markers. Dedicated SUP members will continue to honor many more significant events and persons.

Searching the SUP LIBRARY

by Roger C. Flick, 2008 SUP President-elect

New users of the Sons of Utah Pioneers Library often ask the same questions. What is available for doing research on Mormon pioneers? How do we acquire resources for the library, such as family histories, local histories, pioneer biographies and memorabilia, as well as works of art? Who can use the library?

Nearly all the paintings, sculptures, memorabilia, books, magazines, manuscripts, photos, furniture, computers, etc., in the SUP Library are donated. People often donate their personal and/or family history. A few items are on loan to the SUP. Some items are rare, valuable, and irreplaceable. Several pieces from the SUP collection are featured in this issue of *Pioneer* magazine.

The SUP collection is of historical significance to researchers seeking information on pioneers, localities, groups, and historic events. The focus has been on acquiring Mormon pioneer histories and biographies. Monuments and markers can be searched. However, unlike public libraries, the collection must be used on site; materials cannot be checked out. Open to all, the user need not be a member of SUP and there is no charge for using the library.

Jonathan Oldham Duke, Mormon Pioneer

It had been over 40 years since I performed research on my second great grandfather, Jonathan Oldham Duke, a Mormon pioneer. I desired to see what I could find at the SUP Library on this little-known pioneer.

My first stop was to check the list of pioneers who had been memorialized (honored by a descendent) by placing their names on a plaque in the foyer of the SUP building. Sure enough, his name was there. His name also appears on a memorialized list on the SUP website (**www.sonsofutahpioneers.org**). Since those who memorialize an ancestor are to submit a biography to the library for others to use, I checked the library card catalog to find who had memorialized Jonathan O. Duke. The catalog referenced a D. C. Collett Family Organization made through the Canyon Rim Heritage Chapter. An address of the donor was given which I could use to locate potential cousins.

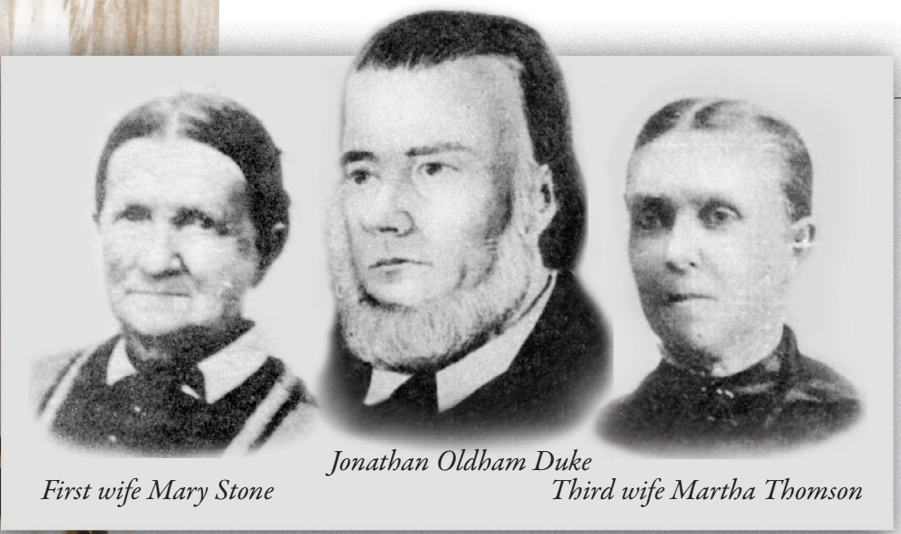
I made another check in the card catalog to determine if a biography had been submitted. There was a six-page biography! Some of the material was taken directly from his pioneer journal. A complete list of names, dates, and places of his children from his three wives was enumerated. A total of 20 children were listed, plus the names of the spouses the children married.

His vital record data agreed with my existing family history. He was born August 31, 1807, in Derby, Derbyshire, England, and died December 29, 1868, in Provo, Utah. He traveled with James Pace's wagontrain and arrived in Salt Lake City September 22, 1850.

The card catalog had several other references, including a brief summary of his background provided in the mysterious "grey binders" collection. It was noted that he was so ill during the expulsion of the Saints from Nauvoo he stayed on the far west side of the Mississippi River for a year until he recovered. He spent the next three years trying to get enough money, supplies, and a wagon to migrate to Deseret.

While using these "grey binders" I became interested in a short bio of Jonathan's first wife, Mary Stone, who also appeared in this collection. It was noted that "Mary was a member of [the] Relief Society since it was organized by the Prophet Joseph in Nauvoo."

The card catalog also gave other references to Daughters of Utah Pioneers (DUP) publications. In *Treasures of Pioneer History* (1956, vol. 5), there were the names of nine Duke relatives. Martha Thompson Duke, the third wife, was noted on pages 220–21. I wasn't aware of some of the recorded details. For example, "Martha was baptized a member of the Church



First wife Mary Stone *Jonathan Oldham Duke* *Third wife Martha Thomson*

of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the year 1850 by Elder Henry Bee Croft. She emigrated to Utah in the year 1855 with her father's family. They were on the Atlantic Ocean five weeks, five days and five hours, and docked in New York harbor on the 5th of May."

When the family arrived in New York they did not have sufficient money to take them to Utah, so Mr. Thompson wrote to Jonathan O. Duke, bishop of the Provo First Ward, for help.

When Jonathan died in 1868, he left "Martha with seven children ranging in age from four months to eleven years. He had helped the less fortunate so much that when he passed away there was little left of this world's goods for his family. Martha went out washing [clothes] while Charles [the eldest son 8 years of age] took care of the little ones at home."

In this same article it was noted that "Martha walked all the way across the plains barefooted except when the captain of their company lifted her on his horse beside him." Other stories were related I had never read before. You will find as I did that it is so easy to get caught up reading pioneer experiences of other family members while trying to focus on just one pioneer.

In another DUP publication, *Pioneer Pathways* (2004, 7:328–21), several pages of Jonathan's pioneer journal were included that present the sad state of affairs when he left Nauvoo. He was stricken with the ague and the "mobacrats" were after him to move immediately out of the city.

In this same article in *Pioneer Pathways*, one of his journal entries was quoted as, "Myself [Jonathan], James Bird, and William M. Wall were unanimously voted in for bishops of Provo City at our special conference which was held here July 17 and 18 [1852]. On the first day of August, 1852, I was ordained to the office of bishop of the First Ward of Provo City by George A. Smith of the Twelve who had been appointed to preside there." On October 19, 1855, he recorded, "Today Sister Sarah Thompson, daughter of George and Jane Thompson, was sealed to me for time and all eternity by President George A. Smith to be my lawful wife. This evening had a small party at my house."

Another reference was a short article in the DUP *Heart Throbs of the West* by Kate B. Carter (1945, 6:450), which mentions Jonathan as being a bodyguard to the Prophet and his volunteering to be a bodyguard to the Twelve when they moved west.

Included was a note regarding his obituary in the *Deseret News,* ending with this statement: "Bishop Duke was much respected by a numerous circle of acquaintances. His zeal in the performance of his duties and his earnest exhortations to the Saints will long be remembered by those who have listened to his voice."

Other standard reference books consulted included *Conquerors of the West: Stalwart Mormon Pioneers* (1:710–13), by Florence Youngberg. This SUP publication listed all the members of Jonathan's family, plus a few brief biographies of his children. Presentation of the genealogical data was good and easy to understand. A brief bio is also included of Jonathan O. Duke.

Pioneers and Prominent Men of Utah: Comprising Photographs—Genealogies—Biographies by Frank Esshom, 1913, is a valuable source of pioneer photographs that appear in the first part and short biographies that appear in the second part. There is a slight discrepancy in some of the information provided in Esshom's biography of Jonathan. This work should always be used with caution.

In *Pioneer Women of Faith and Fortitude*, published by the DUP, I wanted to see what was written about Jonathan's first wife, Mary Stone. "Jonathan passed away, in 1868, on the eve of their fortieth wedding anniversary,

leaving Mary a widow for twenty-two years." The last line in her bio reads, "this valiant lady never complained, always giving thanks for her many blessings."

Church Chronology (2nd ed.), by Andrew Jenson, was examined for two references to Jonathan. The first reference was when he was sustained as bishop of the Provo First Ward in August 1852 and the second when he died in 1868. This is an extremely valuable church chronology for determining what events were taking place in the Church each day of the year and can be used for flushing out a pioneer biography. For example, in August 1852: a small branch of the Church was organized in Hamburg, Germany, by Elder Daniel Garn; Hiram Page, one of the Eight Witnesses to the Book of Mormon, died near Excelsior Springs, Ray Co., Mo.; the revelation of celestial marriage was first made public at a conference by Elder Orson Pratt; missionaries were being sent to many foreign countries; Mary Fielding Smith, widow of Hyrum Smith, died in Salt Lake City; a town site called Palmyra was surveyed on the Spanish Fork River in Utah County, etc.

Websites resources: **Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel, 1847–1868**, on the LDS church website, **www.lds.org**, provides a list of Mormon pioneers who came across the plains. This is the most complete listing of individuals and companies in which Mormon pioneer immigrants traveled west to Utah from 1847 through 1868. Rosters, however, have not been found for all companies. It also identifies sources to learn more about the experiences of each company. You can search for a specific person using the search form above or you can browse the list of companies alphabetically or chronologically.

In this online collection, many good sources listed the James Pace wagontrain Jonathan traveled with across the plains. Also, a list of all those who traveled in this company is provided. The "trail excerpts" are valuable for preparing a pioneer biography.

BYU library at **www.lib.byu.edu**. A full text of Jonathan's diary is available in digital form from the BYU library by searching "Digital Collections Online." By selecting the option "Overland Trails," I searched the database known as "Trails of Hope: Overland Diaries and Letters, 1847–1869." I gained access to the original diary of Jonathan Oldham Duke in digital form, which also included a transcription of the journal.

FamilySearch could also be searched for genealogical information for Jonathan O. Duke and his family. Also, Jonathan's name appears in other printed sources which have yet to be acquired by the SUP Library.

It took but a few hours to locate this information on Jonathan O. Duke. In so doing I noted that a transcription of Jonathan's actual journal was not on file at the SUP Library. Therefore, I donated a transcription copy and a photocopy of the original journal for others to use.

Discover this valuable resource—the SUP Library! You are also encouraged to submit biographical information on your pioneer ancestors to the library. The hours are from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, noon to 4 p.m. The library is located at 3301 East Louise Ave. (2920 South), Salt Lake City, Utah 84109. Telehone: **801-484-4441**, Fax: **801-484-2067**, E-mail: **sup@networld.com** and the Web site: **www.sonsofutahpioneers.org**.

Joseph Smith Chronology from *BYU Studies*

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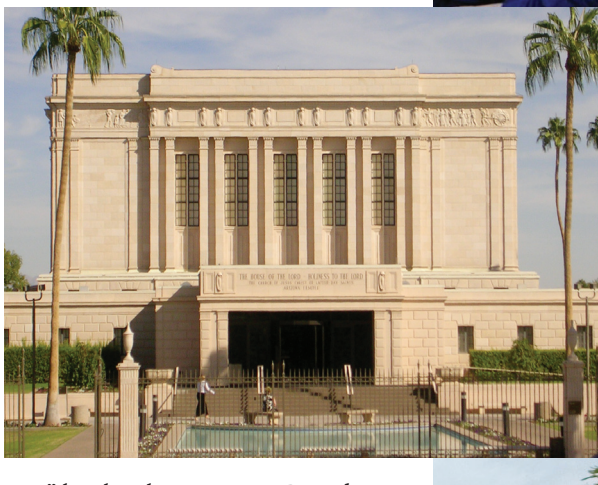
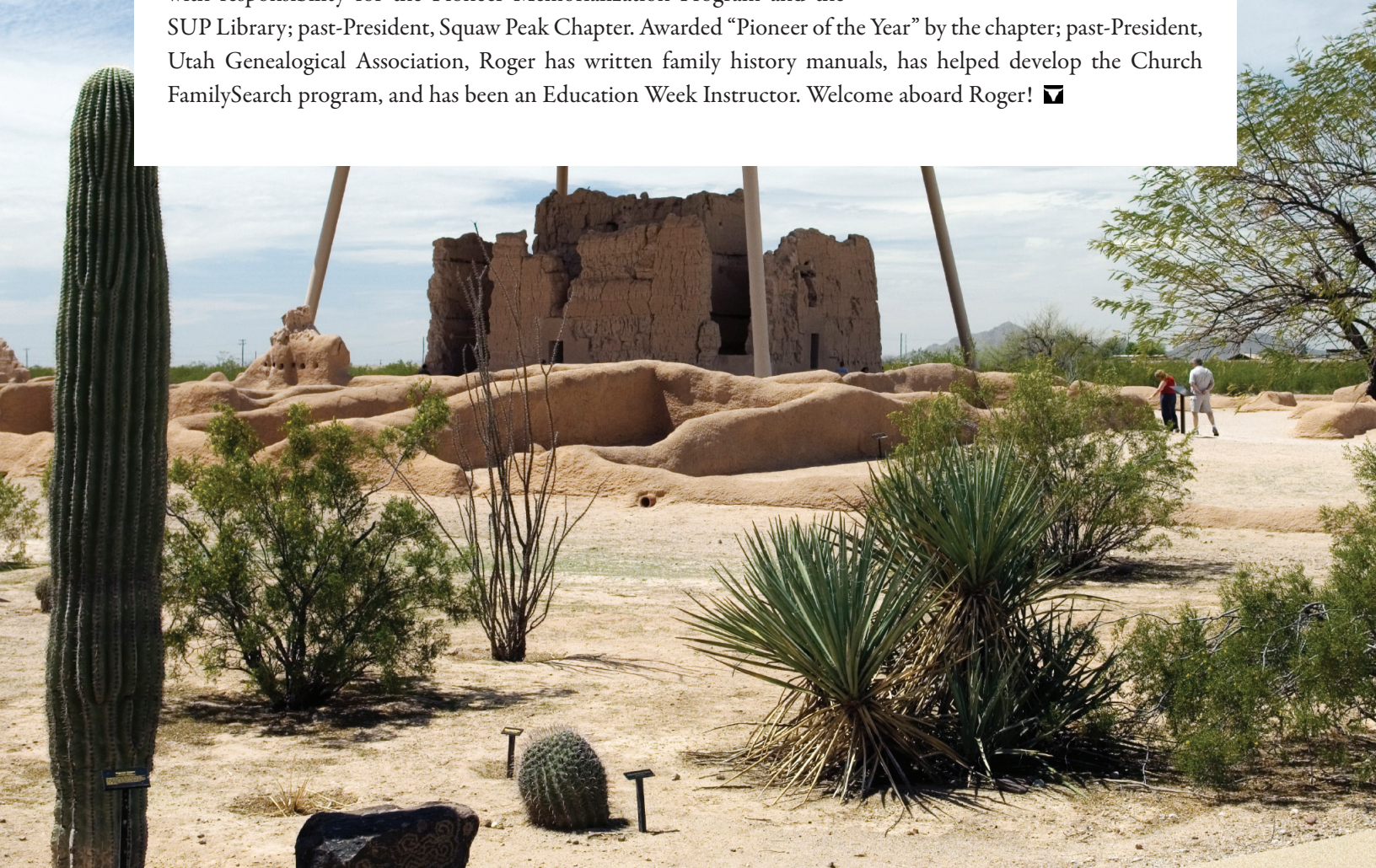
BYU STUDIES

Mesa Convention a Great Success!

For three days in October, almost 300 SUP members and their wives converged on Mesa Arizona for the 2007 Convention. Highlights included election of Roger Flick as the 2008 President-Elect; speaker Kenyon Udall helping us understand Arizona pioneer settlements; a Trek to Salt River pioneer spots including an authentic covered wagon ride (somewhat shorter than the original 1,300 miles). Other day treks were conducted to Casa Grande Ruins National Park (pictured below), and a unique Arboretum featuring cactus and other native Arizona plants. Modern Pioneer Awards were presented to Wally Burgess, Kenyon Udall, and Angus and Jenny Belliston. Thanks to the Mesa Chapter for organizing and carrying out a most memorable Convention.



Roger Flick Voted 2008 President-Elect by delegates at the National Convention in Mesa. Roger brings impressive credentials to the post which include current BYU Family History Center Director and Instructor; current National SUP Pioneer Heritage Program Director, with responsibility for the Pioneer Memorialization Program and the SUP Library; past-President, Squaw Peak Chapter. Awarded "Pioneer of the Year" by the chapter; past-President, Utah Genealogical Association, Roger has written family history manuals, has helped develop the Church FamilySearch program, and has been an Education Week Instructor. Welcome aboard Roger!



National Society of Sons of Utah Pioneers
3301 E. 2929 S.
Salt Lake City, UT 84109

COME TO THE VALLEYS IN THE MOUNTAINS

The Conflict between the Native Americans and the Mormon Pioneers

National Convention 2008, September 25, 26, 27

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: JEFFERY OGDEN JOHNSON

CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS:
Snow College Richfield Convention Center
800 W. 200 S.
Richfield, Utah 84701
Encampment Chairman: Gordon Topham
(435)257-4339/ tophambiz@msn.com

Thursday, September 25

2:00 - 6:00	Check In & Registration
6:00 - 8:00	Opening Ceremonies & Dinner *National Fiddlers Contestants*

Friday, September 26

7:30 - 9:00	National Board Breakfast Meeting
7:30 - 9:00	Check In & Registration
9:00 - 5:00	Tours
6:00 - 8:00	Dinner & Program

Saturday, September 27

7:30 - 9:00	Chapter President's Meeting
7:30 - 9:00	Check In & Registration
9:30 - 11:30	National Business Meeting & Ladies Program *Ranger Bart (Blackhawk War)*
12:30 - 2:30	National President's Luncheon & Program SPEAKER: *Jeffery Johnson from LDS Church History Department*

Tours: *All Tours include a Lunch & Transportation.*

- **Tour 1:** *Fishlake/Capitol Reef: Visits to several sites commemorating the Blackhawk War. Visit to Fishlake Basin and the old town of Fruita in Capitol Reef National Park* . . . . . **$45.00** each
- **Tour 2:** *History Tour: Explore the conflicts between Native Americans and Mormon Pioneers. Visits to Fremont Indian State Park, Cove Fort & Territorial Statehouse State Park* . . . . . **$45.00** each

Registration Fees: *per person for all banquets, programs & activities except tours & housing*

- Early Registration by August 15 . . . . . **$110.00**
- Late Registration after August 15 . . . . . **$125.00**
- Single activity for guest **$25.00**
  Meal & entertainment

Each person is responsible for securing own lodging. A list of motels and campgrounds with rates and phone numbers is available at **www.svsup.org**. As you make your reservation please identify yourself as part of the Sons of Utah Pioneers Encampment for the quoted room rate. To get the special rate some of the facilities require you to make reservations by August 25th.

Cut here and return with your check to the address below: ***please print***

REGISTRATION FORM: 2008 SUP National Convention, Richfield, Utah, Sept. 25–27

Member Name:_____Spouse:_____Phone: (__)____SUP Chapter:_____

Address:_____City:_____State:___Zipcode:_____

Circle lst Tour preference (**$45.00** each): **TOUR 1:** *Fishlake & Capitol Reef National Park* **TOUR 2:** *History Tour*

		Member	Spouse	Total
Early registration	$110.00 each	$ _____	$ _____	$ _____
Late registration	$125.00 each	$ _____	$ _____	$ _____
Saturday only	$ 55.00 each	$ _____	$ _____	$ _____
Single activity	$ 25.00 each	$ _____	$ _____	$ _____
Tours as above	$ 45.00 each	$ _____	$ _____	$ _____

Mail checks and Registration Form to
2008 SUP National Convention
P.O. Box 233, Monroe, Utah 94754

Total Amount Enclosed: $ _____

Make checks payable to 2008 SUP National Convention